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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 46

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2012

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the creation of a Criminal Offender Registry that will track convicted felons in the CNMI?

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ASIA



Former Philippine President Gloria Arroyo pleads not guilty to electoral fraud.

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OFFBEAT



A 72-year-old Nepalese man claims to be the world's shortest.

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Lindsay Lohan is a court hearing away from putting a drunken driving case behind her.

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Camacho throws in towel, pleads guilty. PAGE 3
Man accused of beating masseur found not guilty. PAGE 6

DUE TO UNREMITTED PREMIUMS

Hospital staff may lose health insurance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Over a hundred Commonwealth Health Center employees may lose their health insurance coverage after the discovery that they are behind in their premium payments for several pay periods.

Saipan Tribune learned that the affected personnel are mostly nurses and critical services employees.

Health insurance coverage is optional for CHC employees who enroll with either of three insurance companies: Staywell, Aetna, and Calvo's. Those who opt to obtain this insurance have their premiums deducted from their payroll checks.

The corporation is then supposed to remit these deducted amounts to the insurance carriers.

Eli C. Buenaventura, general manager for Calvo's Insurance Underwriters Inc., confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that their members at the hospital are

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Loan bill for CHC inches forward

» Another payless payday for some CHC workers

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

After a lengthy question-and-answer with acting governor Eloy S. Inos and other government officials, the Senate passed last night a substitute version of a House bill seeking an \$11.58 million line of credit for CHC but the latest action failed to avert another payless payday today for non-essential hospital employees and continued non-payment to vendors.

"I tried hard to get the line of credit

we asked for the corporation to help pay our employees and our vendors, but the Senate decided that they want to use portions of that for other things," CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told

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Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, center, confers with Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), left, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, right, on an \$11.58 million line of credit bill for CHC during a Senate session break yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



3 kids hit by cars in separate incidents

Three minors were injured after being struck by vehicles in separate incidents while crossing Middle Road in As Mahetog and Garapan on Wednesday.

Police officer Jason Tarkong confirmed that three children were injured in the two accidents, including a

student who had just gotten down from a school bus near the road going to the Saipan Zoo.

Tarkong said he will be preparing a press release about the incidents.

Saipan Tribune learned that, in the As Mahetog accident, the legs of an 11-year-

old boy were fractured. He was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The boy was among the passengers of a Public School System bus that had

See 3 KIDS on Page 4



Medics attend to an 11-year-old boy who was struck by a car soon after getting down from a school bus and crossing Middle Road in As Mahetog Wednesday afternoon. The boy was taken to the hospital with fractured legs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Check delays also plague NMI's child care centers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The operation of a number of child care centers on Saipan is being gravely impacted by the lengthy delay in the issuance of checks for the government's Child Care Program.

Owners and managers of about six child care centers interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday disclosed that they've been experiencing up to 60 days delay in their provider's checks, resulting in their failure to meet their payroll on time and in numerous disconnection notices for unpaid utility obligations, among others.

Because of this "demoralizing situation," they fear that personnel performance may be affected in the long run.

Child care center owners and managers interviewed for this story agreed to

See CHILD CARE on Page 4

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NMHC thumbs down buying Fund's home loan portfolio

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is not interested in buying the NMI Retirement Fund's member home loan program due to the corporation's own loan portfolio.

Housing corporate director Joshua Sasamoto informed the board during its meeting yesterday that the Fund is currently looking for buyers for its member home loan program, one of its four local investments.

The Fund is selling the program to relieve it from the burden of managing a program that yields a low rate of investment return and has high delinquency ratio.

"I don't know if we're in any position to purchase that portfolio but it's obviously in line with our business," Sasamoto initially said.

Sasamoto said the loan program is composed of 105 loans,

with the delinquency rate at "32 percent as far as number and 39 percent as far as dollar amounts." He added that 12.4 percent of the program is "doubtful" and annual return is at 8.95 percent.

He said the RFP, which closes on March 12, allows for one-day inspection of the loan portfolio after signing a non-disclosure agreement.

Board chair Marcie Tomokane noted that Housing is not in a position to purchase any more loans "or add more problems to ourselves."

"We're still dealing with other guaranteed loans that we have in our books," said Tomokane, referring to their U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program.

Tomokane added that the Fund's member home loan program delinquency rate "is very substantial."

The board concurred with Tomokane and decided to pass on the Fund's RFP.

Senate confirms Palacios as DLNR chief

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday Arnold I. Palacios as secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources where he has worked for a total of 18 years, mostly as Division of Fish and Wildlife director.

"I'm very appreciative and humbled by the Senate's expeditious action to confirm my nomination," Palacios said in an interview during a Senate session. He also thanked those who testified in support of his nomination.

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate adopted the Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations' report recommending Palacios' confirmation. Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) was still off-island for medical reasons.

The Senate confirmation came a day after the committee, chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), held a public hearing on Palacios' nomination. More than a dozen testified in person and in writing supporting his confirmation.

Palacios, a House speaker during the 16th Legislature, said he accepted the governor's appointment, fully aware of the challenges at the department. He said he's doing his best to move DLNR forward despite limitations in resources.

Palacios was at the initial business meeting of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council when he was called in at the Senate session, which started at almost 2pm. He went back to the council meeting after his Senate confirmation that was attended by supporters and colleagues.

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On 3rd day of trial, Camacho throws in towel; pleads guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

In a move the judge called "highly unusual," a man on trial for alleged kidnapping and sexual assault brought the proceedings to a screeching halt by pleading guilty to the charges mid-trial.

The jury trial of Anthony Raymond Mendiola Camacho was on its third day yesterday and the prosecution only had two more witnesses left to call when his lawyer, Stephen Woodruff, told the court that his client has decided to plead guilty.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who was presiding over the trial, expressed surprise, describing the move as "highly unusual." Govendo ordered a brief recess to allow Woodruff and assistant attorney general Shelli Neal to further discuss this "unique development."

When the hearing resumed, the 38-year-old Camacho pleaded guilty to kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, attempted sexual assault in the first degree, and disturbing the peace.

Neal agreed to dismiss the charges of false arrest, and indecent exposure in the second degree.

Given Camacho's previous felony convictions, Neal said that he faces a minimum man-

datory sentence of 20 years in prison for kidnapping and a minimum mandatory of 15 years for sexual assault in the first degree.

Camacho was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

The victim, who was sitting in the gallery with her mother, was in tears when Camacho pleaded guilty. She burst into tears outside the courtroom after the hearing and tightly hugged Neal.

In an interview after the hearing, Woodruff said during the course of the trial, decisions and evaluations had to be made that should have been made months earlier.

"But we didn't have the information that would have made that possible. The result was that we decided that it was better to take responsibility for the offense than to force the trial to go all the way to the end and then have the jury verdict that would probably go against the defendant," Woodruff said.

He said they were hampered in their preparation and pretrial decisions because they weren't supplied with all of the information that the government had in connection with their investigation.

Neal said that Camacho's decision to plead guilty is a testament to the officers' fine work as "there's a lot of evidence in this case—a ton of photos and items" that were recovered from

the crime scene. "I think the proof was going our way and that concerned the defendant," she said. "It's a pretty good case, plus the defendant has a serious history."

Police said Camacho, a convicted sex offender, asked the victim to bring him to a seclud-

ed old radar station area in As Matuis where he threatened to kill her before trying to rape her inside her car on Feb. 23, 2011.

The victim managed to escape after she hit him in the left eye with the car key, forcing him to get off the vehicle and giving her the chance to drive off.

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LOAN BILL

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune last night.

Despite his misgivings about what he described as a “watered down” bill, Babauta said he respects the legislative process. The bill authorizes the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide up to \$11.58 million line of credit to CHC.

The original House bill would have given \$10 million “line of credit” for CHC’s bridge capital and operational needs, while \$1.58 million is for an electronic health information technology initiative.

The Senate version ended up giving only over \$4.99 million for CHC’s operational needs.

That’s because senators wanted to give \$3.5 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the payment of the Public School System’s outstanding utility bills, another \$1.5 million to CUC for the payment of CHC’s outstanding utility bill, and

\$350,000 each to Rota and Tinian Health Centers.

Inos, after leaving the legislative building, told reporters that he asked senators whether they could lower their original proposal of \$2 million each for Rota and Tinian Health Centers out of the proposed loan amount.

Had the acting governor not interceded on CHC’s behalf, the hospital would have ended up with only about \$1 million for its operations.

“I cannot even pay all the vendors with \$1 million, and what about for payroll?” Babauta said.

Delayed payroll

Babauta said that based on his understanding, only essential CHC employees or those who are in direct patient care, including doctors and nurses, will get their paychecks today.

The rest, the so-called non-essential employees, will mark their second payless payday in a row today, he added.

CHC spends some \$800,000 bi-weekly or some \$1.6 million a month

for the payroll of its estimated 600 employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Before acting on the substitute bill, senators took turns asking Inos, Babauta, and MPLT chair Pedro Guerrero on the measure’s provisions and their impact on operations.

MPLT’s Guerrero said the trust fund is concerned about CHC’s repayment, but they also weighed the hospital’s critical needs.

Around 6pm, the Senate passed House Bill 17-278, House Draft 2, Senate Substitute by a vote of 8-0. Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) is still on medical leave.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres separately said the \$1.58 million for the electronic health information technology initiative will be repaid using federal grants.

Manglona said once that amount is repaid, the \$1 million will be used to establish a scholarship revolving fund so that students will be able to get their scholarship checks on time.

Torres, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, also offered an amendment to use the \$583,000 to buy a CT-Scan for CHC.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) voted “yes” with reservation, citing concerns about the bill’s provisions but expressed support to CHC.

‘Workable’

Inos said the bill in its current form is a “workable” one that he plans to sign into law once it reaches his desk.

The bill has to go back to the House and as of press time there’s no telling whether the Senate version will be accepted or rejected. The bill was introduced by Rep. Ray Basa (R-Saipan) along with seven House members.

“This is a workable legislation. It addresses many of the urgent issues,” Inos said. “The funding may not be enough but it takes care of the immediate needs like paying vendors, making sure payroll expenditure are paid, CUC and so forth. I think I would urge the House to act on it expeditiously.”

Inos said if the bill reaches his desk on Monday, assuming there’s a House session on Monday, he will sign it into law that day “so we can get MPLT to

start the financial transactions to effect the transfer of funds.”

Major changes

The Senate made several major changes to the House bill.

Among these is removing the governor’s power to appoint CHC’s chief executive officer, and give that power to the board of trustees.

The Senate also changed the board of trustees into a “governing” board instead of an advisory board.

Senators also reduced the number of board members from seven to five.

Under the Senate version of the bill, a Department of Public Health will be re-established.

CHC’s CEO, in consultation with the governor, will transfer units or division not related to hospital functions on Saipan, Tinian and Rota to the Department of Public Health.

Units that will go under DPH include the Division of Public Health, Medicaid, Medical Referral Program, Bureau of Environmental Health, Dental Services and at least 21 federally funded programs such as the Maternal and Child Health Program and Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

The five members of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council, along with two other visiting federal officials, pose for *Saipan Tribune* during lunch break at their initial business meeting yesterday at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, three years after President Bush designated the monument on Jan. 6, 2009. From left, council member and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, council member and CNMI Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios, council member and U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cdr. Morgan Roper, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Lisa Croft, council member and the governor’s senior policy advisor Dr. John Joyner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Susan White, and council member and Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Benigno M. Sablan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

delinquent in their premium payments for four pay periods.

Since Calvo’s has no existing contract with the government or the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Buenaventura said the company is trying to resolve the matter with individual members.

Despite the delinquency, however, Buenaventura assured that Calvo’s continues to provide medical insurance coverage to its members at CHC, but not to newly enrolled ones.

“We will be dealing with our individual members because we don’t have any contract with the government [or the corporation]. Yes, we haven’t received any premium payment for the past four pay periods. [From] a business perspective, it is basic that if we don’t get the premium, we will not be able to deliver the services,” he explained.

According to Buenaventura, Calvo’s will be notifying its members at CHC about their delinquent payments and they will be given a certain period to

fulfill it.

“For the existing members, we will write them a letter together with their billing asking them to update their payments or the coverage will be suspended or cancelled in 15 days [after receipt],” he said.

For new members, the company will not activate their coverage because one of the requirements for activation is for the company to receive at least one payment from new members.

“We cannot activate our services for them [newly enrolled] because we haven’t received any payment at all,” he added.

Saipan Tribune learned that Calvo’s collects over \$9,000 worth of premiums per pay period from over 100 members at CHC. To date, these members owe the insurance carrier about \$40,000.

Buenaventura said that this is the first time for the company to experience such a lengthy delinquency among CHC members. The firm has been providing insurance coverage to CHC staff since 2000.

Staywell Health Insurance official Eric Plinske confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CHC owes the

company some money but declined to say what it is for. He said members at CHC are “still active” and remain covered by Staywell. He declined to say how many members Staywell has at CHC.

Worried members

Hospital employees who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity expressed dismay about the situation, saying they were only informed about it very recently. They said they were not aware that their premiums have not been remitted for so long.

A nurse who needed to avail of some prescription drugs at the hospital’s pharmacy was surprised to learn that her account at her insurance company was delinquent after she was made to wait for verification at the counter.

Another employee at the outpatient clinic shared the same experience, saying she was asked to wait to see if her coverage is suspended or not.

Employees said that they will inquire with the corporation’s administration about the situation.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta yesterday but he was out almost all day for a series of meetings.

CHILD CARE

From Page 1

speak on condition of anonymity.

The child care program in the Commonwealth is subsidized by the federal government though the Child Care Development Fund, which is administered by the Department of Community Cultural Affairs.

Survival

While awaiting their subsidy, child care center managers said that many of them borrow money to tide them over or ask their private participants for consideration.

In the absence of timely government subsidy, these centers rely on the payments they get from parents of children they serve who are not under the child care program. Those with a larger private clientele are therefore luckier than those that merely rely on the CCDF subsidy, they said.

Saipan Tribune learned that providers got their subsidy for October 2011 only in December last year.

For their November checks, they got their checks only on Jan. 31, 2012, while their December subsidy was released only yesterday, Feb. 23.

‘Not true’

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao admitted yesterday that there have been some delays in the release of some checks but denied that it has reached up to 45 to 60 days, as claimed by the providers.

“That is not true. As noted, December payments are out and DCCA is processing all vendor payment for January, which will be submitted to the Department of Finance,” he said, adding that the January check may be issued within the month or early next month.

Faisao explained that pursuant to its

policy, DCCA has 19 working days to complete the payment review from vendors. After that, it will be routed to Finance, Procurement and Supply, then down to the Treasury Division for final assessment and check issuance.

As far as DCCA is concerned, Faisao stressed that the agency is complying with its 19-day policy. He cannot, however, speak on behalf of Finance for the next processing steps.

Faisao also explained that the delay in the issuance of the last three checks (October, November, December) was due to the 16-hour austerity measure implemented by the government, affecting employees at Finance and DCCA, among others. The holiday breaks, he said, also contributed in the slow processing of documents.

The continued delay in the release of their checks is prompting child care providers to speculate that the Child Care Development Fund is possibly being used for other purposes by the government.

Faisao immediately belied this, saying DCCA has a complete and updated record of all CCDF drawdowns from the federal government.

He disclosed that for fiscal year 2012-2014, the CNMI child care program is allocated \$1.9 million. Of the amount, 5 percent is allowed for administrative costs, 8 percent for quality initiative programs, 8 percent for quality expansion, 5 percent for infant and toddler, and 1 percent for school age. The bulk of the funds is for the program’s certification, which is 73 percent, he said.

DCCA has seven staff handling the child care program on three islands.

To date, there are 25 centers and 415 children enrolled in the program.

The Childcare Development Program was under the Public School System for the past 15 years before it was turned over to DCCA in 2008.

was going toward Tanapag or to the Puerto Rico area.

The bus stop is located along a curve in the road.

In the second accident, two children sustained minor injuries when a vehicle hit them as they were crossing Middle Road near the museum in Garapan. No other details were available as of press time yesterday. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

3 KIDS

From Page 1

just come from Tanapag. As the bus stopped across a bus stop on a road leading to the Saipan Zoo, students began crossing Middle Road. A car struck the boy, a fifth grade student.

It was not clear whether the vehicle

New local law allocates nearly \$185K for Saipan projects

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos line-item vetoed yesterday a local bill that ended up re-appropriating and allocating nearly \$185,000 for Saipan and Northern Islands projects.

Inos signed House Local Bill 17-52, Draft 1, Substitute 4 into Saipan Local Law 17-13. The new law re-appropriates a total of \$184,893.60 for at least six projects and programs.

The original total was \$190,218.60, but Inos line-item vetoed a total of \$5,325 for three separate programs.

"I approve this measure to support the various programs identified, but disapprove Sec-

tions 2(b), (d) and (e) as the business units from which to re-appropriate these programs lack sufficient funds as identified in this legislation," Inos told Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), author of the local bill, said the delegation would have wanted all the items to be funded but if the Department of Finance confirms that there is lack of funds for some of the items, then the delegation has to accept the acting governor's line-item veto.

"Just like what delegation chairman Tebuteb said, members should have a little re-

straint when appropriating because there may not really be money for that," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

The three vetoed items were offered by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Yumul, and Tebuteb said.

These vetoed items were supposed to be re-appropriations for the following: \$2,000 to go toward the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council for the drafting and promulgation of rules associated with the Leadership Memorial Courtyard, also known as the Kios-ku project; \$2,000 to pay for the Dandan Children's Park playground equipment; and \$1,325 for the Department of Public Works for right-of-way projects.

The new local law re-appropriates \$5,000 for the Northern Islands Mayor's Office for the First Northern Islands Development Summit.

It also re-appropriates \$11,250 to DPW for a mower for the maintenance and upkeep of roads on Saipan.

Also re-appropriated was \$10,750 to reconnect power to basketball courts in San Roque and As Matuis, as well as for facility improvements.

SLL 17-13 also re-appropriates \$4,658 for business unit number 3397Q, as well as \$10,000 for various projects in Precinct 1.

The biggest amount of \$143,235.60 goes to various projects in Precinct 2.

"Funds allocated under this

Act shall not be appropriated or re-appropriated for any other purpose," Inos said in his message to lawmakers.

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Man accused of beating and robbing masseur found not guilty of charges

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Nestor C. Taitano, a habitual offender accused of conspiring with his cousin to beat up and rob a 65-year-old masseur, was found

not guilty of all charges yesterday.

After deliberating for less than an hour, the six jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding Taitano not guilty of robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Superior Court associate

judge Joseph N. Camacho, who handled the misdemeanor charges, found Taitano not guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. He said the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that

Taitano is guilty.

Taitano's counsel, assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, said after the hearing that the government wasn't able to show that his client had anything to do with this case.

Meyer said that Camacho supported the jury's finding with his own verdict.

"So [Taitano] is a free man. And I wish the best for him," Meyer said.

Assistant attorney general Eileen Wisor said they're a little bit disappointed with the outcome but pointed out that Taitano has already served a year in jail as he has been in

incarcerated since the incident on April 2, 2011.

Wisor said the strongest elements in the prosecution's case was a witness who heard Taitano suggest to his co-defendant, Joshua Basaliso, that they go beat up the victim because they knew he had a lot of money.

"And then the co-defendant did in fact do just that. So there's a direct evidence that he suggested it and circumstantial evidence that he heard him agreed to it and then did what he said," the prosecutor said.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister assisted Wisor in the trial that began Monday.

Taitano has eight prior criminal convictions.

He and Basaliso were arrested in April 2011 for allegedly beating up and robbing Guoxi Liang of less than \$100 outside his house in San Antonio. Liang, a Chinese national, sustained multiple injuries in the face and head.

Basaliso has already pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. He has yet to be sentenced.

A call for action to fight NCDs in the CNMI

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A "call for action to change together" is needed among community groups in the CNMI to fight the battle against the alarming rise of non-communicable diseases, according to Public Health Services director Roxanne Diaz.

Diaz said now is the time for faith-based, ethnic, and any other types of groups to join efforts to prevent NCDs from spreading in the Commonwealth.

"It is very critical for the community to be involved and be champions of this fight against NCDs. We need to stop this and we need to change. It's unacceptable and irresponsible of us to see this continue," Diaz told *Saipan Tribune*.

This is why Public Health Services is spearheading an initiative to convene these community groups, individuals, and other stakeholders who "can offer some light" in the issue of NCDs, Diaz said. She added that they have funding from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the World Health Organization to deal with this issue.

According to Diaz, the problem of NCDs in the CNMI is "getting worse" based alone on their increasing number of dialysis patients. In 2011 alone, Public Health Services recorded 27 new dialysis patients, compared to 23 in 2010 and 18 in 2009.

Diaz said that about half or so of dialysis patients at the Commonwealth Health Center have diabetes and develop into complications like kidney failure, amputation, blindness, and stroke.

While dialysis patients are from different ethnic groups, Diaz noted that majority of them are still Chamorros and Carolinians. "It's increasing and it's really an indicator of a disease gone uncontrolled," she added.

She said bringing the community together will help forge an alliance that "would best address" the problem of NCDs in the Commonwealth. They met with community groups on Wednesday and another meeting is scheduled tomorrow at the American Memorial Park.

With the establishment of an alliance, Diaz said that they will be able to revive the CNMI National NCD Plan of Action and update it to be more realistic and responsive to the needs of the public.

For more information, call 236-8703 or 285-3735 or email chcpubhealth@gmail.com.

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2nd round of broadband mapping village meetings

One Economy, in cooperation with the CNMI Department of Commerce, BroadMap LLC, and the New America Foundation will be conducting a second round of village/town hall meetings to present and discuss the recent completion of the CNMI Broadband Mapping Community Survey.

CNMI residents reported significant barriers to broadband adoption, especially cost and availability. According to residents, there are significant areas that are completely unserved by broadband. There are residents

who would like to subscribe to the Internet that are not being served. One Economy wants to share these findings with community members and receive feedback on the results.

"We would really like residents' help to fill in the gaps in the data, because we know that a survey and numbers are only going to tell part of the story," said Daniel Calarco, director of International Programs for One Economy. Calarco and Colin Richardson, program manager, One Economy Corp., will be on island to conduct and present

the community survey findings.

The following confirmed scheduled village/town hall meetings will be held in February:

■ Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6pm, at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian.

■ Wednesday, Feb. 29, 6pm at the conference room, Office of the Mayor, Songsong Village, Rota.

The Saipan village/town hall meetings will be announced at a later date.

Your attendance and participation in this community engagement will help map Inter-

net access, usage and attitudes. Refreshments will be served.

The program is part of an initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to develop and maintain a comprehensive, interactive, and searchable nationwide map of existing broadband capability and availability throughout each state or territory. In addition, One Economy aims to improve broadband adoption in CNMI by better understanding the barriers to adopting broadband that residents may face. *(One Economy)*

Do you need fire insurance?

Your business or your home is considered one of the most substantial investments you will ever make in your lifetime. Making sure that you have adequate insurance to protect them from fire destruction is crucial. When purchasing standard fire insurance policies, you may also inquire about coverage for other causes of loss such as earthquake and typhoon.

How does fire insurance work?

You may acquire fire insurance coverage two ways: standard fire policy or homeowner's policy. A standard fire policy will only cover your home from damage caused by fire alone. A homeowner's policy will not only cover damage caused by fire but other causes such as earthquake, vandalism, malicious mischief, civil commotion, strike, and riot. A standard fire policy will cover the structure of a home. If there are other structures such as gazebos or garages that are not a part of the covered dwelling, it may or may not be covered under your policy. Unless a customer requests for coverage, chances are the contents of your home are not covered.

In order to determine the premium of your fire coverage, your insurance agent will ask for the value of your home. If you wish to have your contents covered, you will be asked to gather a full inventory of each item you wish to have covered followed by a receipt or an estimated value.



Risks of having no fire coverage

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration, there has been a steady increase in the number of home fires caused by electrical malfunctions, cooking, and personal smoking acts.

Between the months of January and February of 2012, there have also been a number of structural fires reported to the Department of Public Safety in the CNMI. Some of the fires reported were suspected arson cases. Fire losses caused by arson

are not uncommon. In fact, between years 2005 to 2009, structural fires caused by arson were responsible for over \$1.9 billion in direct property damage and an estimated 390 deaths.

Steps to reducing financial losses caused by fire

Home fires are inevitable. You are not able to predict when or if you will become a victim of a fire breakout. Investing time and effort to reducing your risks of a total loss will be worth your while. Some of the steps include installation of smoke alarms and water sprinklers, having adequate amount of fire extinguishers, reducing structural exposure to carbon monoxide, and having someone stationed at home at all times to reduce chances of arson. *(Pacifica Insurance)*

For more information on fire insurance, call Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. at 234-6267 or visit their office located at Joeten Center in Susupe. You may also visit www.pacificains.com or send an inquiry via email to piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is a general agent for Century Insurance and Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 24, 1999

AG warns against credit repair scams

Acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara yesterday warned the public against companies operating in the commonwealth which offer services to "repair" credit for a fee. Kara said there has been a considerable fraud in this industry, victimizing unsuspecting consumers who were charged thousands of dollars for services which were either not rendered or ineffective, and could have been done without assistance from such companies. "Some activities are even illegal and consumers have committed felony offenses at the direction of these unscrupulous operators," Kara said in a press release issued by the Office of the Governor's Press Secretary.

Legislators urged not to stall CIP bill

The chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee yesterday warned legislators against derailing a key legislation appropriating funds under the capital improvement projects, saying the measure has to be in place as soon as possible to help spur the local economy. Rep. Karl T. Reyes, who sponsored the House bill that will set in motion millions of dollars in CIP funds on the island, maintained the projects outlined in the measure are those considered priority in the master plan that was drafted for more than six months by the government last year. "The longer we hold it back, the more problem it creates," Reyes said in an interview, reacting to reports that his bill may be amended in the Senate after the House has passed it in its entirety.

Feb. 24, 2000

GAO report may shield CNMI vs fed takeover

A report prepared by the accounting and investigative arm of the U.S. Congress on the Commonwealth's economy could be a strong shield against Washington D.C. efforts to extend federal immigration and minimum wage laws into the CNMI. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed confidence the U.S. Congress will take into consideration the General Accounting Office report when it tackles legislative measures on the federalization of CNMI immigration and minimum wage. Mr. Tenorio said the study was actually requested by the U.S. Congress in light of recommendations and report submitted by the Clinton Administration detailing harsh accusations against the Commonwealth's handling of its own labor and immigration policies.

Bill seeks to earmark \$123K to Rota

House Vice Speaker Alejo Mendiola is introducing a local legislative measure that would earmark \$123,000 in total funds generated from pachinko and poker machine license fees to major projects that will be undertaken by the local government of Rota. The finance department said the government generated at least \$123,000 from the Rota Local Law 11-1 which was implemented beginning Dec. 30, 1998. Mr. Mendiola said his proposed measure would put these funds for use by the Rota local government in several essential community programs on areas that include livelihood, health and education.

Feb. 24, 2001

Chinese officials seek investment opportunities

Two officials from China's largest Chamber of Commerce are on Saipan this week to speak with local businessmen and government leaders about investment opportunities in the CNMI. Wang Shen Yang, chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles, and Deputy Director Xiao Ling met with acting Gov. Deigo Benavente yesterday to discuss starting business enterprises in the CNMI. Wang said that his Chamber represents over 5,000 different businesses in China, most of them relating to import and export of garments, but many also representing other types of businesses.

Higher Educ Act gets Senate's partial OK

The Senate approved yesterday the partial passage of the bill proposing to subject Northern Marianas College's personnel hiring and firing practices to Civil Service Commission rules and regulations. The proposed Higher Education Act of 2004 or Senate Bill 14-22 was adopted on first reading during a session on Monday, with eight out of nine senators voting in favor of the measure's passage. The bill will still have to go through final reading before it can be considered passed by the Senate. Senate Vice President Diego M. Songao, the bill's author, expressed his disagreement over claims that the legislation would jeopardize the accreditation of the college.



MUSEUM DONATION

Floyd Masga holds early 20th century German pfennigs (coins) and a 1914 German Cross of Honor that he recently donated from his personal collection to the CNMI Museum of History and Culture.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated birthday greeting to Jacob Peter H. Aldan, who turned 8 on Feb. 22, 2012. Eight is great! Sure is for a special birthday boy like you. Blessings and birthday wishes coming from Mommy, Daddy, Brittney, Tiana, Nina, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings to Myron Laniyo, who is celebrating his special day today, Feb. 24! Through thick and thin, blue or grey skies, you are always there for us. Thank you for being the best daddy and babe we could ever ask for! Rock this day 'coz you deserve it! Yours truly, Kai, Boi, and Babe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to "Papa" Ray Crisostimo on Feb. 24. You're the best, we love you! Greetings come from Jr, Draven, Franko, and the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fitial takes up food stamp issue with FNS chief Rowe

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Audrey Rowe, along with members of her senior management team, welcomed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to the FNS Headquarters in Alexandria yesterday afternoon.

In their meeting, Fitial and Rowe exchanged views and insights on the operation and challenges of the current nutrition assistance program in the CNMI.

The governor emphasized strongly that the local government is currently not in a position to undertake the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP. Instead, he brought to FNS' attention concerns about unemployed non-residents, and about particular populations of illegal overstayers who give birth in the CNMI so that their children are U.S. citizens. In turn, the unemployed and out-of-status parent avails of food stamp benefits in the name of the newborn citizen child. While the governor believes that children should have access to nutrition, he is gravely concerned about increased reports of abuse of benefits, or what is known as "benefit trafficking," by unemployed nonresident parents who are believed to be trading their child's food stamp vouchers for cash or for products not allowed under the program's guidelines. Fitial pointed out that this underground economy is harming not just the integrity of the program, but also legitimate businesses and beneficiaries who follow the rules.

To combat this illegal practice, Fitial asked FNS to implement more stringent measures that would ensure that illegal nonresident parents are not given access to the vouchers that are supposed to be for the nutri-

tion needs of their children.

Fitial also directed Rowe's attention to the agency's deobligation of \$4.5 million in earmarked funds for the establishment of the electronic benefit transfer system in the CNMI. Unlike other states and territories, food stamps are still issued as physical voucher coupons in the CNMI.

The governor expressed disappointment that such funding would not be available, especially since he strongly believes that the EBT system would play a major role in curbing the widespread abuse of food stamp benefits. He asked Rowe to revisit the MOU in place and to explore options to restore the funds.

In regards to the issue of SNAP, Rowe indicated that she had informed CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan that the agency still needs to see "a lot more data" to determine viability of implementing SNAP in the CNMI. She also informed the delegate that FNS still needs to review the current structure of the nutrition program in the CNMI and the MOU that is in place for the CNMI. Fitial was surprised to hear these remarks from Ms. Rowe, primarily because Sablan has made no mention of Rowe's concerns in his campaign to have the CNMI switch over to SNAP.

Fitial thanked Rowe and her team for inviting him to their office and expressed his commitment to working closely with FNS to ensure that stringent measures are in place that will not compromise the integrity of the program.

In reference to SNAP, Fitial told the FNS officials, "I support increased benefits for our residents, but I will never commit the local government to a program that carries re-



Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Audrey Rowe welcomes Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to the FNS Headquarters in Alexandria yesterday afternoon.

quirements that we will not be able to satisfy."

The governor pointed out that Sablan and other members of Congress should focus their efforts on improving economies and creating jobs for people instead of promoting dependency on welfare programs and creating more "welfare states."

"I certainly would like to see a reduced dependency on food stamps and more willingness for residents to take on jobs," said Fitial. "Working and earning wages doesn't just improve a person's spending power, it also has proven to be much healthier than just staying home and waiting for the monthly benefits." (Office of the Governor)

Job Skills Class

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- Basic Budgeting & Time Management



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 46Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

The hard truths of newspapering

By KEVIN FERRIS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Kevin Ferris is assistant editor of the Editorial Page of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at kf@phillynews.com.



When it comes to the realities of life in journalism, no one prepared me more while I was an undergrad at Virginia Commonwealth University than Bill Turpin.

He was No. 2 in the department of mass communications when I arrived in the fall of 1979 after three years in the Army. In a previous life he had been a small-town newspaper publisher. And in that small Southern town, he saw every day the impact he had on his community.

If readers didn't like something in his paper, he heard about it. If they didn't get their paper on time, they let him know. He could be confronted while in line at the grocery store, on the sidelines at a Little League game, or while out with his family. And there was no deflecting responsibility. As a small-town publisher, he was the editor, the advertising director, the circulation manager, and whatever else needed to be done on any given day.

Sometimes an apology was in order, and a promise to make things right: for a typo or factual error, for an ad that wasn't run as promised, for a late paper. Other times he had to stick to his guns: for unflattering coverage of a local politician, for opinions that made someone want to cancel a subscription.

No business person in his right mind wants to anger readers, advertisers, neighbors, friends, colleagues. But one of the realities of journalism, Turpin would remind us, is that newspapers aren't just a business. They come with added burdens and responsibilities. And one of those tasks is to point out the truth, however uncomfortable, as best as it can be determined. I don't mean truth in some god-like, omniscient way delivered from paragons of virtue. And Turpin never looked at the profession or its practitioners that way either. I mean reporting on the truth as it is determined from the facts at hand, as fairly and accurately and responsibly as possible.

Of course, sometimes when you do that, someone is going to be upset. And you'll hear about it — in Turpin's case very up close and personally. If you can't handle that kind of pressure, and in the process stand up for your good name and your publication's, you don't belong in the business. Back down, degrade that good name in any way, and you have no business.

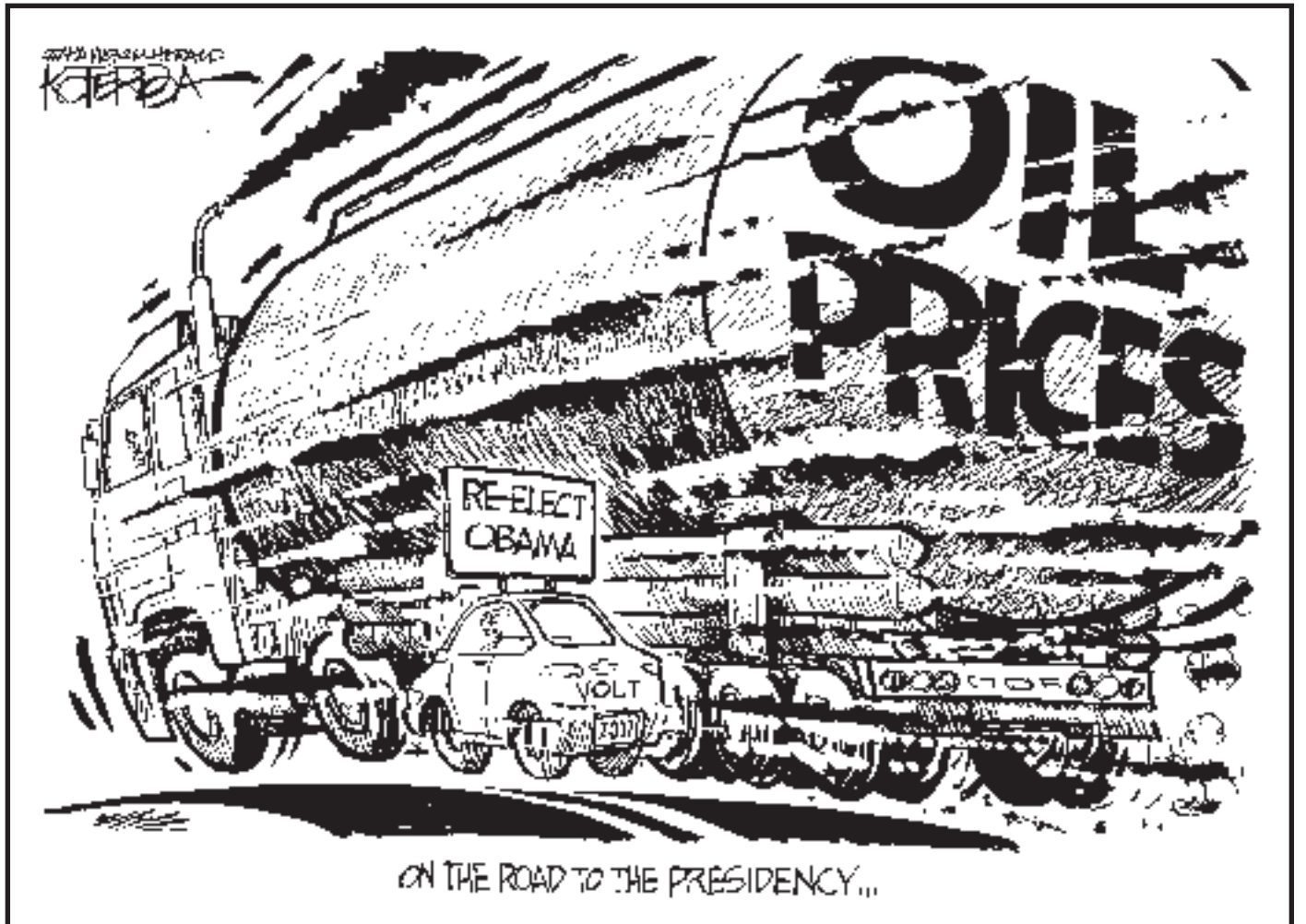
So why do I keep using the word business instead of profession or even noble calling? Because of the other reality check Turpin passed along.

In our senior year, we took a newspaper-management class from Turpin that went way beyond the ins and outs of herding cats in a newsroom. We spent half our time shadowing a local publisher to learn about all aspects of the business: circulation, advertising, business, production. Then we had to create our own fictional paper, from staffing, to realistic budgets for each department, to designs for everything from the newsroom to the pressroom.

It was quite the adjustment from all those reporting and editing classes. A classroom full of Woodward and Bernstein wannabes were being pestered with questions like, Where are the bathrooms for your employees?

I can't say that I became an expert in any of that, but I did take away the message that Turpin repeated over and over: No matter

See **NEWSPAPERING** on Next Page



Fed dough vs dependency

Pertinent federal agencies collect figures on income to determine poverty thresholds. Sifting, they take quick glimpses to understand what they mean. But what the figures represent isn't necessarily the whole picture of how poverty came into existence per family. What we have is strictly statistics.

As these figures come into secondary and tertiary review, questions arise whether giving housing, food, and health assistance to the lowest echelon would help them move along or would the extension be taken for granted that government would provide for all their needs.

Do we help those who once helped themselves but fell in view of the bad times and need some temporary assistance to get back on their feet? If we want to empathize with those who once were on their feet, what has government done to spur wealth and jobs creation to ensure their return to productivity?

Government is supposed to be our agent of wealth and jobs creation, the goal being to provide people the means to help themselves through meaningful employment. If this doesn't happen, then it translates into contraction of private industries and joblessness for a good number of people who are still productive and willing to work.

When the welfare state enters, it amounts to a wholesale takeover of individual lives. As opposed to government stepping in to soften the blow, the welfare state assumes from the start that individuals won't make it without government managing their lives.

It is not an accident that despite trillions of dollars spent on anti-poverty programs since the 1960's across the country there are little discernable changes in poverty rate. The problem has taken a turn for the worse because the broken families and broken spirits resulting from government plantation dependence have institutionalized poverty everywhere. This could very well be true on the islands.

The redistribution or transfer of funds from paying taxpayers to non-taxpayers would become the new ingrained culture so difficult to untangle in subsequent years. Wealth and jobs creation are the answers to stopping the onslaught of the welfare state from taking permanent foothold here. A` Saina!

■ ■ ■

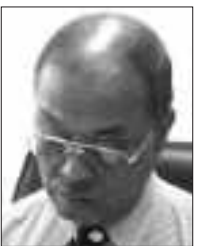
Too, the CNMI doesn't manufacture anything at all. So it makes wealth and jobs creation doubly difficult. The void to revive wealth and jobs creation is oceans apart, seriously severed by internal and external factors. One wonders if we would ever recapture the healthy economy we had in the '80s and '90s. Or is this just a figment of my imagination?

The elected elite must review the laws on takeover of immigration and minimum wage to untangle the prohibitive provision slamming the doors on manufacturing altogether. I still say that salaries must be premised on economic conditions under the free enterprise system. Statutory dictates leave nothing but ruination that fast-forward annihilation. It also means returning to the drawing board to repeal any and all anti-business laws that have stifled expansion and new business startups.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



For as long as the local government snoozes on the job rather than take a proactive role in wealth and jobs creation, the welfare state would envenom recipients to do nothing constructive to pull themselves out of handouts. Meaningful employment is the answer, an answer that remains as mysterious as the imposition of austerity that still renders the local government over \$25 million in deficit spending.

Personal industry

The sense of personal industry was well and alive among our folks some 40-60 years ago. Whether one is a farmer, fisherman, or owner of a small mom-and-pop store, the untiring effort to produce sufficiently for the market and family use was never in short supply.

I saw an uncle, a self-made man work his garden all day then head to the lagoon early in the evening until midnight, reef fishing. He would do this at least three times a week. He sells the best produce at the market and keeps the excess for family use.

Then there's the case of my grand auntie who walks to As Lito once a week, hauling a sack of husked coconuts or some local nuts and bringing it all the way home to Lali Four in CK. She'll grade coconuts for oil ointment and save some for coconut candy. This she did all her life and kept her routine simple: church, farm then home and an occasional trip to Guam.

I used to marvel at their success and what seems to be the recipe that brought them above the rest. It was sheer hard work and the ability to return, time and again, to harvest their dreams even if it means taking the extra mile to reach the stated goal. It's persistence, consistency, vision, and conviction that will get you there almost every single time. Set your dreams and ride your canoe confidently, equally wary that the water that lifts it could easily sink it too. Be ready for critical strategic planning in order to stay competently competitive. Move on!

■ ■ ■

Buddy Magoo has been tinkering with ideas to help the once thriving apparel industry here. Only problem is he came in a bit too late. Said he, "The emplacement of hi-tech robots substituting expensive warm bodies would have done the job of retaining the industry from deploying." But this would have required hiring a man to watch the machine and a dog to watch the man from messing the machine. (Laughter).

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Five dollars buys the world

The fuel price roller coaster is on the upswing again, and the gas pump offers thrills and chills. But it hopefully has no spills since, at around \$5.059 a gallon on Saipan as of yesterday, if I spilled any gas I'd take off my shirt, mop up the gas, then squeeze it into the fuel tank.

Whenever these gas spikes hit, people wonder if the spiked prices are the "new normal" or are just a transient peak. It is a fair question. Well, everybody has to make their own decisions about such things, but I guess we can say that about anything in economics.

But the economic fundamentals aren't the only interesting side of that gig. Even the mere trading mechanisms can be a bit involved. That's why I sat for the FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) Series 3 (National Commodity Futures Examination) exam a couple of years ago. Yeah, I'm a geek for that stuff, and I have to remind myself that most people don't share my interest in it.

But gas being over \$5 on Saipan gives me an excuse to indulge the topic, though I promise to stick to the broadest possible take here.

Gas prices may be as close as the Mobil and Shell signs on Saipan, but the overall truth is a lot bigger: Commodities, and oil is just one of them, are going to make, and break, many a fortune in the coming years. In fact, commodities will also make, and break, many careers as well.

I've known a couple of people on Saipan who sent their kids to top U.S. medical schools but the next batch of high-flyers might be petroleum engineers.

In a May 24, 2011, Bloomberg BusinessWeek article, "Engineering Undergrads Reap Top Salaries Among College Majors," petroleum engineers got top mention with reported median earnings of \$120,000 a year. I believe it. From the accounts I've heard, petroleum engineers fresh out of U.S. universities are being snapped up as soon as they graduate.

In the more distant past, however, I also knew of petroleum engineers who were abjectly unemployed back when oil was \$15 a barrel. So I'm not suggesting that any profession is fail-safe. In fact, to the contrary, it merely accentuates my earlier point that the world of commodities will make or break careers.

Of course, commodities have always zigged and zagged in price, so that's nothing new. But what is new, at least in my lifetime, is that the world's economic center of gravity is shifting from West to East. This stuff is just getting started, as industrial Asia's appetite for commodities keeps growing: oil, beef, gold, coal, pork, copper, lead, silver, coffee, you name it.

Here's another example of how distant action in commodities can pay off: When I was a kid, some of the older teenagers in the area went to Alaska to help build the oil pipeline. Some of them banked more money than their parents' entire life savings.

Looking back to dusty historical accounts of the gold mining days of the old West, not only could miners strike it rich but the merchants who mined the miners oftentimes fared even better.

Last year I visited several gold mines, and a long time ago I flew a corporate airplane for a mining company. But the coolest thing I

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



saw last year, in the remote outback of a lonely old desert, was three old prospectors who had a '50s-vintage Willys truck that towed a water tank that sustained them in the mountains for a week at a time. It was a scene straight out of the Twilight Zone. One of them gave my wife a little vial with some of his gold findings, just little flakes, hardly of big money value, but of great value nonetheless lest we be tempted to write the whole thing off as a mirage.

And there are a lot of gold rushes going on right now, be it the literal gold, or the liquid kind such as oil. Entrepreneurs are cashing in too; the miners and the oilers have got to eat and shop and carouse someplace, eh? Also, skilled trades are in high demand in such areas, be it nursing, offshore oil rig helicopter flying, or certain types of welding, to name a few fields.

Five buck gas is more than just a hole in the wallet. It's a reminder of how the outside world is playing for high stakes. Yes, very high, indeed.

The post-mortem polarization of Whitney Houston

By **GREGORY CLAY**

McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Whitney Houston often has been a magnet for envy. As a teenager, young Whitney grew up with a home swimming pool, the only child in her East Orange, N.J., neighborhood with one.

Her friends learned to swim with the athletic "Nippy," as they affectionately referred to her.

Then, there's "The Voice." We're talking envy here, remember. Just listen to her powerful and radiant rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before Super Bowl XXV in Tampa, Fla.

We've heard nothing like it, before or since.

However, there's one aspect that few could envy: The Post-Mortem Polarization of Whitney Houston.

On one side, we have this view:

When actor Kevin Costner, Houston's co-star from the hit movie "The Bodyguard," eloquently spoke at her funeral on Saturday in Newark, he referenced Houston's uniqueness. "I thought she was perfect for what we were trying to do," an emotional Costner said of her first leading role. "You made the picture what it was. A lot of guys could have played my part, but I believe you were the only one who could have played Rachel Marron at that time. You were as beautiful as a woman could be."

On the other side, we have this episode:

Los Angeles talk-radio hosts John Kobylt and Ken Chiampieri were suspended for calling Houston a "crack ho." They took it further, saying she's been "cracked out for 20 years" and "It's like, 'Ah Jesus ... here comes the crack ho again, what's she gonna do? Ah, look at that—she's doin' handstands next to the pool. Very good, crack ho ...' After a while, everybody's exhausted. And then you find out she's dead. It's like, 'Really? Took this long?'"

And there's the governor with the flag:



Whitney Houston

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie ordered flags at government buildings lowered to half-staff to honor Houston, despite her checkered past. Christie admitted that he received numerous emails and messages angrily denouncing his executive order with the flag. But the governor said he wasn't lauding Houston as a role model, explaining that she deserved the gesture because of her major cultural influence in the entertainment genre and that she was a "daughter of New Jersey."

Now, let's explore this in more depth: Christie is a staunch Republican. It wouldn't be surprising if he has aspirations for the White House at some juncture of his fast-rising political career. The flag gesture is one that will be remembered because of the controversy. And when Christie is courting the presidential vote—read as in the black vote in 2016 or 2020—many people of color would view him more favorably for such a defiant stance in support of Houston. Call it the Politicization of Whitney Houston.

If there's a positive emanating from this tragic discussion, it's the increased focus on the murky underworld of prescription drug use/abuse. It's widely known that Houston had been treated for substance abuse, and Los Angeles authorities have been examining prescription medicines found in her hotel room.

Last week on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," singer Kelly Price, a friend of Whitney Houston, naively spoke of Houston's drinking during the days before the Grammy Awards: "Well, no, I wasn't worried about it. I didn't see where it was excessive. I didn't see—I saw her with a couple of glasses of champagne. And then our interactions were normal. There was nothing that seemed that it was over the top. She didn't seem to be intoxicated to me. Again, I know intoxicated when I see it. And so I wasn't worried about it at all."

Addiction specialist and television personality Dr. Drew (also known as Drew Pinsky) almost went into a lecturing tirade when he heard Price's alarming comments, saying, "Oh, Anderson, it is—no

disrespect but this is the highest level of ignorance. The fact is that just because somebody isn't doing hard drugs does not mean their addiction is not active.

"Please, everybody, I'm trying to get this message across to the world and—it seems to be falling on deaf ears. If you have addiction today, you are not going to die of hard drugs, you're going to die a prescription death. That is how addicts die today. Period. ...

"Seeing Whitney with champagne in her hand should have been an alarm sounding for all of her friends. They should have pulled her aside and said, Whitney, you were in treatment just last May, my God, what's going on. You seem to be not doing so well, let's get you to a meeting right away where the goal is abstinence for a reason. Not because it's mean or mean-spirited. But because it's what saves lives."

The bottom line is that many people were in denial about Houston. They saw what appeared to be a healthy-looking Houston and decided that everything must be A-OK—at least outwardly. So therefore, no more addiction and thus no more issues. It's only natural to think the best is in store for a close friend, regardless of circumstances.

Furthermore, most everyday people probably don't think having a drink every now and then isn't so bad for anyone—even for a recovering addict. Much of this laissez-faire attitude toward Houston's drinking can be attributed to a lack of awareness of the warning signs, as Dr. Drew attests.

However, there's also the issue of plain and simple denial. All you have to do is personalize it: How many of us truly want to believe that a friend ALWAYS will be haunted by the demons of substance abuse? That's what treatment is for in the rehabilitation facilities. With that, there's a visceral, if not sentimental, expectation of a cure-all to end-all.

As Whitney Houston's death shows, if only it were that simple.

That's something no one can envy.

Gregory Clay is assistant sports editor for McClatchy-Tribune News Service, 700 12th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005; email: gclay@mctinfoservices.com.

NEWSPAPERING

From Page 10

how talented the writers and photographers, the editors and page designers, the advertising and production staffs, they couldn't put those talents to use if your newspaper wasn't making money.

Thirty years later, the money isn't being made. And changing economic realities require that newspapers adjust or die. So I applaud attempts to expand the readership and re-create an industry

— whether through tweets, Facebook, apps, and a host of online products I have yet to figure out how to use — in order to retain and create jobs for talented people, and to keep serving the community.

At the same time, I confess to being just a bit more worn down and a little more discouraged with each round of layoffs. More were announced in Philadelphia last week. Regular reports of the company being sold, and allegations about behind-the-scenes games being played, aren't that great for morale either.

Occasional bouts of discouragement, however, don't mean I don't think that newspapers shouldn't change with the times and

technology. Or that I think that any one of us is indispensable. Yes, it is incredibly difficult to imagine a newspaper without certain individuals. And, yes, some days it's just hard to walk in the door knowing that others won't be with you any longer.

But, as with all things, we get a brief blink of an eye to do our best, to add to the debate, to make gentle the life of this world. And in that time, we hope, through our efforts, that we've made a contribution, and in the process, have stood up for our good name and our newspaper's.

There is no business without that name.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds
15 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds
15 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

TUESDAY

Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲89 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲84 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼66
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲42 ▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲69 ▼63
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼70
London	Showers	▲57 ▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73 ▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼68
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼66
New York	Showers	▲51 ▼37
Osaka	Showers	▲50 ▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲53 ▼46
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼33
Rome	Sunny	▲66 ▼41
Salem	Showers	▲54 ▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼23
Tokyo	Showers	▲46 ▼37
Washington, DC	Showers	▲63 ▼40

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front stretches southwestward from south of Iwo To island at 25N142E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are present over Iwo To island along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap between 6N and 2N from 136E to 145E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered light showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei but near Kosrae and Majuro within 130 miles 4N150E to 3N160E to 8N174E. A shear line runs westward from 21N180 to end north of Wake Island at 22N166E. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and north of this feature to beyond 25N.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Today	7:44 AM	8:15 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM	Saturday	8:22 AM	9:03 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Sunday	9:00 AM	9:51 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Monday	9:40 AM	10:40 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Tuesday	10:22 AM	11:30 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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TRAINING FOR PARENTS

Over 100 parents and caregivers attended the DCCA-DYS-sponsored Parent Leadership Workshop at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Feb. 17, 2012. The workshop was one of the activities slated in February in recognition of National Parent Leadership Month. It was designed to help increase knowledge and skills on topics of interests to parents. The presenters for the workshop included Sr. Stella Mangona (Karidat), Lucy Schilling (Parent trainer), Charlotte Cepeda (NMC-CDI), Vinnie Sablan, Malua Peter (Diabetes Coalition), Diane Camacho (Ayuda Network), and Sylvio Ada (DYS). The National Parent Leadership Month recognizes and honors parents for their roles in their homes and communities and in state, national, and international arenas. Parent Leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. National Parent Leadership Month highlights the many opportunities available for parents, professionals, and policymakers and other community members to engage in partnerships with the goal of building and supporting strong and safe families.

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 <p>2006 Honda Civic DX STOCK # 6L012086 \$11,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Mazda RX8 STOCK # 80214167 \$16,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2007 Ford Fusion SEL STOCK # 7R100604 \$14,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2007 Honda Civic DX STOCK # 7L043414 \$11,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2009 Nissan Altima S STOCK # 9C188438 \$18,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Kia Sedona LX STOCK # 86261071 \$16,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2009 Nissan Xterra S STOCK # 9C509155 \$18,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2009 Honda Civic SI STOCK # 9H704539 \$21,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Nissan Quest S STOCK # 8N111101 \$18,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>Joseph (Jay) Cabrera Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562</p>	 <p>2011 Nissan Altima S Coupe STOCK # BC100556 \$27,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4 STOCK # 8PA43917 \$21,995^{00*}</p>

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Preparations kick off for May's 2012 Agricultural Fair

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Preparations are in high gear for the 2012 Agricultural Fair slated for May 26 at the Civic Center Grounds in Susupe.

A collaboration of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, the agricultural fair is an annual event that showcases locally grown agricultural produce and livestock to promote and support local farmers and ranchers.

At least 11 members of the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association met yesterday at the DLNR office in Lower Base to elect officers and discuss plans for this year's event, which is now on its 29th year.

The association officers are



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Agricultural Fair Association president Calistro Reyes and vice president Tom Castro, both seated, are flanked by other officers and members during a meeting at the Department of Land and Natural Resources office in Lower Base yesterday morning.

Calistro Reyes, president; Tom Castro, vice president; Serina Kaipat, secretary; Marianne Teregeyo, treasurer; Robert "Bob" Magofina, animal division chair; and Ben Cabrera, animal division assistant chair.

The group is also eyeing to include in their roster of officers Albert Concepcion to chair the plant division.

At the meeting, Reyes emphasized the need for a detailed plan for the agricultural fair to allow them to consolidate activities and timeline as well as work within their budget.

"A written plan is very important," said Reyes, adding that it will also avoid errors or oversight experienced in previous agricultural fairs.

Reyes also called on the group to "think outside the box and be more imaginative" to make this year's event "the best agricultural fair" to date.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), a member of the association, proposed that the 2012 event should include orchid growers and those involved in aquaculture, which he considers a thriving activity in the Commonwealth.

He also recommended that students participate in the fair, citing the Young Farmers of America program in the U.S. mainland and the youth agriculture program in Taiwan as examples of successful initiatives to promote the industry among younger community members.

Animal division chair Magofina offered to invite elementary students for a contest as to who can provide a good theme for this year's fair.

Reyes said he is "very impressed and thankful" to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for the \$20,000 appropriated for the fair. Reyes said they have already asked the Department of Finance to draw down the fund.

"With this money, we can really do something for our event," he added.

Reyes also said the association will be consulting with acting DLNR secretary Arnold I. Palacios in their preparations.

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Cabbage  89¢ LB.	Korean Pear  \$2⁹⁹ LB.	Beach Cliff Sardines  99¢	Ace of Diamond Tuna  \$1³⁹ 7 OZ.	Century Tuna  89¢ 6.5 OZ.	Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash  \$1⁹⁹ 15 OZ.	Hormel Chili with Beans  \$1⁶⁹ 15 OZ.	Hormel Chili No Beans  \$1⁷⁹	Kruataia Coconut Milk  99¢ 13.5 OZ.	Kimchi Base  \$6³⁹ 450 gm	Sunkist  \$6⁹⁹ CASE
Broccoli  \$1⁴⁹ LB.	Celo Apple  \$3⁴⁹ /BAG	Dinty Moore Beef Stew  \$1⁶⁹ 15 OZ.	Dinty Moore Meatball Stew  \$1⁶⁹ 15 OZ.	Royal Spaghetti Noodle  \$2⁴⁹ 1 kg.	Excellent Rice Stick  99¢ 227G	Tabasco  \$6⁷⁹ 12 oz.	Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds)  \$1⁵⁹ 26.5oz.	Del Monte Whole Corn  \$5⁴⁹ 106 oz.	Enfamil Infant  \$3⁹⁹ CASE	Pepsi Can  \$16⁴⁹ CASE LIMIT
Orange  99¢ LB.	Honeydew/Cantaloupe  99¢ LB.	Kellogg's Frosted Flakes  \$3⁷⁹ 12 OZ.	Kellogg's Corn Pops  \$3⁹⁹ 11.8 OZ..	Kellogg's Apple Jacks  \$3⁹⁹ 8.8 OZ.	White Sugar 2kg  \$2⁷⁹ 2 KG.	Argo Corn Starch  99¢ 1 LB.	Gold Medal Flour  \$3⁴⁹ 5 LBS.	Morton Salt  85¢	Pancake Mix  \$2⁷⁹ 37.02 OZ.	Duncan Hines Cake Mix  \$1⁹⁹ 18.25 OZ.
Garlic  \$1²⁵ 5 PCS.	U.S. X-Large Eggs  \$2³⁹ 1 DOZ.	Foremost Milk  \$20⁴⁹ CASE	Tang Orange  \$8⁹⁹ 22 QTS.	Kool-Aid  \$8⁹⁹ 34 QTS.	Rota Water  \$5⁴⁹ 500 ML	Maxwell Coffee Mix  \$7⁹⁹ 100CT.	Ox & Palm Cooked Ham  \$1⁶⁹ 120Z. \$3⁴⁹ 160Z.	Best Food Mayonnaise  \$15⁴⁹ 1 GAL.	GB Mayonnaise  \$9⁶⁹ 1 GAL.	Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle  \$5⁹⁹ 1 GAL.
		Quaker Oats (Oatmeal) \$4.49 42oz  \$4⁴⁹ 42 OZ.	Whole Chicken Can  \$5⁹⁹ 50 OZ.	Kikkoman Soy Sauce  \$3⁹⁹	Real Lemon Juice  \$3³⁹ 32 OZ.	Dragon Vegetable Oil  \$9⁴⁹ 1 GAL.	Fresco Vegetable  \$9⁴⁹ 1 GAL.	DelMonte Ketchup  \$4⁶⁹ 2 64 OZ.	HappyTime Assorted Cookies  \$6⁴⁹	Golden State Vinegar  \$3⁹⁹ 2 1 GAL.
										Hite Can  \$16⁴⁹ CASE


FROZEN	Bar S Jumbo Franks  \$1¹⁹	Millers Sausage  \$16⁹⁹	Bar S Ham  \$18⁹⁹ 10LBS.	Bar S Bacon  \$3²⁹	Ground Beef  \$10⁹⁹ 5LBS.	Chamorro Sausage  \$4⁴⁹ 10LBS.	Ground Pork  \$22⁴⁹ 10LBS.	Tilapia  \$1⁰⁹ /LB.	Milk Fish  \$1⁴⁹ /LB.	Green Shell Mussels  \$5⁹⁹ 2LBS.
	NON-FOOD	Clorox Regular  \$3⁴⁹ 92 OZ.	Purex  \$4⁴⁹ 50 OZ.	Gain Liquid  \$6⁴⁹ 50 OZ. \$10⁹⁹ 100 OZ.	Gain Powder 120 loads  \$16⁹⁹ 50 OZ.	Joy Ultra  \$1⁴⁹ 12.5 OZ. \$6⁹⁹ 90 OZ.	Huggies Big  \$18⁹⁹ BOX	Luvs Big  \$17⁴⁹ BOX	Drypers Convenient  \$5⁷⁵	
Dawn Dishwashing Soap  \$8⁹⁹ 90 oz.		Suave Shampoo & Conditioner  2 for \$3⁰⁰	Safe Guard Bar-Soap  79¢ 135 g.	Head & Shoulders  \$5⁷⁵ EA. 14 OZ.	Bounty Paper Towel  \$19⁹⁹ 15 Rolls	Charmin Ultra Strong Tissue  \$6⁹⁹ 24 Rolls	Foam Plates  \$3²⁹ 50 CT. \$7⁹⁹ 125 CT	Diamond Aluminum Foil  \$6⁹⁹ 200SQ.FT.		

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM CHST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail mika.muna@cucgov.org, no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge and Sugar Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria may indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

Retirees' meeting

There will be a meeting for all CNMI retirees and beneficiaries on Saipan to discuss the Retirement Fund's current status and legislations regarding retirement. The meeting will be held on Feb. 28, at Kagman Community Center, and March 1 at the Multi-Purpose Center, both starting at 6pm. **(PR)**

TES PTSA meeting set

Tanapag Elementary School will have a PTSA meeting on Feb. 27, at the school cafeteria, starting at 5:30pm. For more information, contact the main office at 664-3425/26/27.

Veterans outreach

Tina San Agustin, the federal

Department of Veterans Affairs' legal administrative specialist from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Tinian and Saipan for an outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will also be entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

■ Tinian: Monday, Feb. 27, 8:30am-4:30pm, at the Tinian Municipal Council's office.

■ Saipan: Feb. 28-29 and March 1, Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, Building 1364, Capital Hill.

For more information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at 664-2650. **(PR)**

Cultural center activities

The *Inetnon Amot yan Kutturán Natibu/Mwischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faliw* is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on the making of *amot takalum, titiyas, atuli*, and *iskoba* at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. The lessons are from 9:30am to about 12pm. **(PR)**

Saipan mayor on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Saipan Mayor Donald Flores to talk about his plans to create a stadium like facility on Saipan, thereby promoting Saipan as a venue for professional sport teams' training camp. He will go on the air between 10am and 10:30am. The show itself is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features a world report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota by Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called *Hafa Mohon* with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. **(PR)**

Live fire training on Farallon de Mendenilla

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Feb. 28, 9am-4pm; March 1, 9am-4pm; and March 2, 8am-3pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training (R7201) on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Sin-

gle Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. **(EMO)**

Kagman High School calendar

Kagman High School will have a half-day schedule on Thursday, Feb. 23. Students will be dismissed at 12:45pm. Parents and guardian are encouraged to attend the PTSA meeting that same day, Feb. 23, at 5:30-6:30pm. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840. **(PR)**

SVES Annual Canary Walkathon

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting the Annual Canary Walkathon on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at the SVES baseball field, from 7am until noon. The public is invited to join to promote a healthier lifestyle for parents, students, and the community. PTSA members have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, call the school at (670) 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. **(PR)**

As sweet as Candyland!


TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm. The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merrymakers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy! Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan 2012! **(PR)**

Manta Band selling raffle tickets

The Manta Ray Band is hosting a mega raffle ticket fundraiser for its trip to the 2012 Olympics in London. The group expects to sell 3,000 raffle tickets at \$50 apiece. The grand price is \$5,000 in cash. The raffle will be held on May 4. A ticket purchase entitles the buyer to meet and watch the band perform on May 4 with light refreshments provided. They don't need to be present to win. **(PR)**

Red Cross sets CPR/AED this Saturday

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the Health & Safety training at its training room on Airport Road. Its Pediatric CPR/AED will be held this Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8am to 11:30am. Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A \$70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting www.red-cross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. **(ARC)**




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Attorney for Plaintiff,



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

GLOBAL TRADING, LTD., HERMAN R. GUERRERO and LUCY P. GUERRERO,
Defendants.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

BOBBIE'S AMUSEMENT CO. INC, BARBARA A. PANGELINAN, and THE ESTATE OF JOHN DLG. PANGELINAN,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 03-0174

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Civil Action No. 10-0360

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Global Trading Ltd., Herman R. Guerrero and Lucy P. Guerrero in the following described, real property situated in, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 011 D 25, located in Garapan, Saipan, containing an area of 772 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Plat No. 011 D 00 dated December 14, 1970, including all existing and future improvements, appurtenances and easements on said property;

and

Lot No. H 328-7-2, located in Capitol Hill, 1,238 square meters. Lot No. H328-7-2 is more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2059/94, which is recorded as File No. 93-4304, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.




The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, March 16, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145; Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit/Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Global Trading, Ltd., Herman R. Guerrero and Lucy P. Guerrero in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2012.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety


*Master Card and Visa only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).

Dated this 2nd day of February 2012.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

*Master Card and Visa only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).



Business

Poll: Obama benefitting from improving economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is reaping political benefits from the country's brighter economic mood. A new poll shows that Republicans and Democrats alike are increasingly saying the nation is heading in the right direction and most independents now approve the way he's addressing the nation's post-recession period.

But trouble could be ahead: Still-struggling Americans are

fretting over rising gasoline prices. Just weeks before the summer travel season begins, the Associated Press-GfK survey finds pump prices rising in importance and most people unhappy with how Democratic president has handled the issue.

It's seemingly no coincidence that Obama this week is promoting the expansion of domestic oil and gas exploration and the development of new forms of energy.

It's his latest attempt to show that he, more than any of the Republican presidential contenders, knows that voters' pocketbooks remain pinched even as the economy improves overall. And on that question of empathy, solid majorities continue to view him as someone who "understands the problems of ordinary Ameri-



Obama

cans" and "cares about people like you," the AP-GfK survey found.

There is evidence that the nation is becoming markedly more optimistic, and that Obama benefits from that attitude.

Thirty percent in the poll describe the economy as "good," a 15-point increase since Decem-

ber and the highest level since the AP-GfK poll first asked the question in 2009. Roughly the same share say the economy got better in the past month, while 18 percent said it got worse, the most positive read in over a year.

Looking ahead, four in 10 said they expect the economy to get better in the next year and a third said they think the number of unemployed people in the U.S. will decrease, the highest share on

either question since last spring. A quarter of those surveyed said they expect the economy to get worse over the next 12 months, while 31 percent said it would stay the same, the poll found.

As optimism has risen, Obama has received a corresponding bump in his approval rating for handling the economy. Forty-eight percent now say they approve of how he's handling it, up 9 points from December.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FDA panel backs previously rejected obesity pill

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—A previously rejected weight loss pill won an overwhelming endorsement from public health advisers Wednesday, raising hopes that the drug from Vivus Inc. could become the first new anti-obesity medication to reach the U.S. market in more than a decade. The Food and Drug Administration has rejected three weight loss pills in the last two years, including Vivus' pill Qnexa, due to safety concerns. Experts agree new weight loss drugs are needed to treat an estimated 75 million obese adults in the U.S., but the string of rejections has raised questions of whether any pharmaceutical treatment is safe enough to win approval. At a public meeting Wednesday, an FDA panel of outside physicians voted 20-2 in favor of the weight loss drug from Vivus, setting the stage for a potential comeback for a drug that has been plagued by safety questions

since it was first submitted to the agency in 2010.

Bankruptcy judge approves Solyndra bonuses

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—A Delaware bankruptcy judge on Wednesday approved close to \$370,000 in bonuses for 20 employees of Solyndra LLC, a solar panel manufacturer that received a half-billion dollar loan from the federal government before declaring bankruptcy. Solyndra, based in Fremont, Calif., had proposed awarding bonuses of up to \$500,000 to as many as 21 employees, but scaled back its request after discussions with its official creditors committee. Solyndra, which has failed to find a buyer to operate the company as a going concern, argued that it needs to retain key employees with knowledge of Solyndra's complicated equipment and the expertise required for an orderly wind-down and liquidation of its remaining assets.

Judge: BP liable for civil penalties for oil spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal judge ruled Wednesday that BP PLC and one of its minority partners in the blown-out Macondo well are liable for civil penalties under the Clean Water Act for their roles in the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier also ruled that Deepwater Horizon rig owner Transocean Ltd. may be liable under the same law as an "operator" of the well. The judge, however, said he couldn't decide before a trial scheduled to start Feb. 27 whether Transocean meets the definition of that term.

The Justice Department argued that BP, minority partner Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and

Transocean are each liable for per-barrel civil penalties for oil discharged from the well. Barbier rejected Anadarko's argument that oil discharged from Transocean's rig, not the well.

"Pressure within the earth drove hydrocarbons up the Macondo Well, through the (blowout preventer), and finally out the riser," the judge wrote. "Thus, the uncontrolled movement of oil began in the well. The riser and (blowout preventer), by contrast, were merely passive conduits through which oil flowed."

Barbier also ruled that BP and Anadarko—but not Transocean—are "responsible parties" under the Oil Pollution Act for oil that flowed from beneath

the surface of the water.

Transocean said the ruling is a "vital win" for the company and for the "long-term viability of the industry's operator-contractor model."

"This decision states clearly that BP is the responsible party and reaffirms the long-standing legal, regulatory and economic framework that has been employed by parties in the offshore oil and gas industry for decades," the company said in a statement.

In response to the ruling, BP spokesman Daren Beaudou noted that the company already has paid out billions of dollars in claims to individuals, businesses and governments.

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Nation

Teenage girl dies after inhaling helium at party



EAGLE POINT, Ore. (AP)—Last weekend, 14-year-old Ashley Long told her parents she was going to a slumber party. But instead of spending the night watching videos and eating popcorn two blocks away, she piled into a car with a bunch of her friends and rode to a condo in Medford, Ore., where police say the big sister of one of her friends was throwing a party

AP

Justin Earp and Lorian Earp stand in the room of their daughter Ashley Long, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012 in Eagle Point, Ore.

with booze and marijuana.

After drinking on the drive, and downing more drinks in the condo, it came time for Ashley to take her turn on a tank of helium that everyone else was inhaling to make their voices sound funny.

"That helium tank got going around," said Ashley's stepfather, Justin Earp, who learned what happened from talking to Ashley's friends at the party. "It got to my daughter. My daughter didn't want to do it. It was peer pressure. They put a mask up to her face. They said it would be OK. 'It's not gonna hurt you. It'll just make you laugh and talk funny.'"

Instead, she passed out and later died at a hospital, the result of an obstruction in a blood vessel caused by inhaling helium from a pressurized tank.

It's a common party trick—

someone sucks in helium to give their voice a cartoon character sound.

But the death exposes the rare but real dangers of inhaling helium, especially from a pressurized tank.

Dr. Mark Morocco, associate professor of emergency medicine at the Ronald Reagan Medical Center in Los Angeles, said what happens is similar to when a scuba diver surfaces too quickly. A gas bubble gets into the bloodstream, perhaps through some kind of tear in a blood vessel, and can block blood flow to the brain, causing a stroke. The gas is also commonly seen in suicide kits—mail-order hoods sold out of Oregon and elsewhere that can be attached to a helium tank by people who want to kill themselves. In those cases, the helium crowds out the oxygen, asphyxiating a person.

Newark mayor: NYPD Muslim files 'deeply offensive'

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The mayor and police director of New Jersey's largest city said Wednesday the New York Police Department misled their city and never told them it was conducting a widespread spying operation on Newark's Muslim neighborhoods. Had they known, they said, they never would have allowed it.

"If anyone in my police department had known this was a blanket investigation of individuals based on nothing but their religion, that strikes at the core of our beliefs and my beliefs very personally, and it would have merited a far sterner response," Newark Mayor Cory Booker said.

In mid-2007, the NYPD's secretive Demographics Unit fanned out across Newark, photographing every mosque and eavesdropping in Muslim businesses. The findings were cata-

logged in a 60-page report, obtained by The Associated Press, that served as a police guidebook to Newark's Muslims. There was no mention of terrorism or any criminal wrongdoing.

Officials reacted strongly on Wednesday.

"It is deeply offensive to me to do blanket surveillance for no reason other than religious affiliation," said Booker, who called on his state's attorney general to investigate.

Newark Police Director Samuel DeMaio, who was deputy chief of the department at the time, said the NYPD asked to be shown around the city. New York police said it was part of an investigation but never revealed what it was about, DeMaio said.

"We really want to be clear: This type of activity is not what the Newark PD would ever do," he said.



ACROSS THE NATION

8-year-old critical after Wash. school shooting

SEATTLE (AP)—An 8-year-old girl was in critical condition Wednesday after she was shot in the abdomen at her elementary school near Seattle, and one of her classmates was detained, authorities said Wednesday. The injured third-grader was airlifted to Seattle's Harborview Medical Center, where she underwent surgery Wednesday afternoon so doctors could assess her injuries, hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg said. Police said a third-grade boy was being questioned and a firearm was found in a classroom. The boy apparently shot the girl, though police provided no further details about the incident and said their investigation was just beginning.

Police: Girl forced to run 3 hours dies; 2 charged

ATTALLA, Ala. (AP)—At a doublewide trailer along a dirt road in rural Alabama, authorities say 9-year-old Savannah Hardin was forced to run for three hours as punishment for having lied to her grandmother about eating candy bars. The severely dehydrated girl had a seizure and her death days later was ruled a homicide. Her grandmother and stepmother who police say meted out the punishment are in jail, facing murder charges Wednesday. Witnesses told deputies that Savannah was told to run and not allowed to stop for three hours on Friday, an Etowah County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman said. The girl's stepmother, 27-year-old Jessica Mae Hardin, called police at 6:45 p.m., telling them that Savannah was having a seizure and was unresponsive.



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3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of

termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;

2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710

Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701

Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

US, NKorea in first nuclear talks since Kim death
BEIJING (AP)—Amid cautious optimism, U.S. and North Korean envoys met Thursday for their first talks on dismantling Pyongyang’s nuclear programs since the death of the country’s long-time leader Kim Jong Il. The discussions will be closely watched for signs of a more cooperative approach from North Korea, which stands to gain food aid, economic help, and diplomatic concessions in return for taking steps to end its efforts to develop nuclear weapons. The countries were on the verge of a deal to have Washington provide food if Pyongyang suspends its uranium enrichment program when the agreement was upended by Kim’s Dec. 17 death.

Japan royal heir suggests easier load for emperor
TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s crown prince believes efforts should be made to reduce the burden on his ailing father, Emperor Akihito, as the 78-year-old monarch recovers from heart bypass surgery. Crown Prince Naruhito said that as Akihito gets older it is increasingly important to ensure that his official duties are not too heavy. Naruhito, the heir to the throne, made the comment in a news conference to mark his 52nd birthday on Thursday. Akihito underwent the surgery on Saturday and remains in the hospital but is reportedly in good spirits. Emperors in modern Japan reign until they die. Naruhito refrained from commenting on whether that should be changed.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, **Civil Action No. 08-0119**

vs. **NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

CHRISTINE B. FIDELINO and CRISSETA B. FIDELINO Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on January 18, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Publiko Drive, Lower Navy Hill Area, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot 023 D 96, (a consolidation of parts of Lot 023 D 07, 023 D 08, and 023 D 09; part of original Lot 023 D 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 023 D 05, the original of which was recorded October 18, 1983 as Document No. 83-0063 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Friday, March 2, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.**, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, 2nd Floor of D' Torres Building in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 8th day of February, 2012.

/s/ Sikd Soalablabi, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670) 235-8060
e-mail : shinesshine2011@live.com
(Please cc: joshuaberger711@hotmail.com)

Philippines' Arroyo pleads not guilty to fraud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo pleaded not guilty to an electoral fraud charge Thursday at the opening of a landmark trial that is seen as a key test of her reformist successor’s campaign to stamp out corruption.

Arroyo, president from 2001 to 2010, is accused of rigging the results of senatorial polls in 2007 to favor her candidates. The electoral sabotage charge is the first of several criminal cases being prepared against her.

“Not guilty,” she told the court in a soft voice and with a stoic expression after her defense team waived a full reading of charge details. If convicted, she could face life in prison.

The stakes are high for both Arroyo and President Benigno Aquino III. Aquino risks losing public support if she is acquitted and his rallying cry of “no corruption, no poverty” may fizzle out as just another failed attempt to fix the graft and poor governance that have hounded the nation for decades.

Arroyo’s acquittal would vindicate a former leader who has portrayed her prosecution as a political vendetta to destroy her reputation and mask Aquino’s failure



Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo emerges from a van to attend her court arraignment for election sabotage Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012 at the Regional Trial Court in suburban Pasay City south of Manila, Philippines.

to improve the lives of Filipinos, a third of whom lives on \$1 a day.

“Despite the continuous and massive vilification campaign

she wants to clear her name.

She promised to respect the law and said she expects the same from the country’s leaders.

Aquino’s spokesman Edwin Lacierda said that Arroyo’s arraignment “brings us one step closer toward attaining closure to the many controversies” during her administration.

“Accountability escapes no one,” he said.

The electoral fraud case against the former president centers on a notoriously corrupt southern Philippine region where all 12 of Arroyo’s Senate candidates swept all the votes and no opposition candidate won.

According to the charges, there are witnesses who said Arroyo gave instruction to rig the vote in collusion with a powerful political clan leader, Andal Ampatuan Sr. Ampatuan is on trial facing murder charges in connection with the 2009 politically motivated massacre of 57 people, including 32 journalists and opponents. He has pleaded not guilty.

Arroyo’s husband, Jose Miguel “Mike” Arroyo, said that his wife “feels the case is an injustice.”

“There is no case here,” he added.

He said his wife is frustrated, and still suffering from spine and back pain that he said requires medical treatment abroad. After her appearance, which lasted about 10 minutes, Arroyo was escorted under tight security from the courtroom to a military hospital where she is detained while being treated for the spine ailment.

Court spokeswoman Felda Domingo said the trial is historic because “the votes of the people were sabotaged and the accused is a former president.”

Aquino has promised to root out corruption and said that no one should be allowed to evade justice.

“There are no exceptions in our campaign against corruption,” he said in a speech Tuesday. “It shouldn’t matter if you are a former president or in the lower ranks of public service. If you are dishonest, then you must be held to account.”

Arroyo’s arrest in November struck chord among many Filipinos hungry for accountability following her presidency, which was overshadowed by scandals, coup attempts and botched congressional hearings into corruption allegations involving Arroyo’s officials and family members.

Quran burning incites deadly riots in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Clashes between Afghan troops and protesters angry over the burning of Muslim holy books at a U.S. military base left at least seven people dead and dozens wounded Wednesday as anger spread despite U.S. apologies over what it said was a mistake.

The demonstrations across

four eastern provinces illustrated the intensity of Afghans’ anger at what they saw as foreign forces flouting their laws and insulting their culture.

The violence was also a reminder of how easily Afghan-U.S. relations can deteriorate as the two countries work to forge a long-term partnership ahead of

the withdrawal of foreign forces in 2014.

The unrest started Tuesday when Afghan workers at the main American military base, Bagram Air Field, saw soldiers dumping books in a pit where garbage is burned and noticed Qurans and other religious material among the trash.

The top U.S. and NATO commander, Gen. John Allen, quickly issued an apology and telephoned President Hamid Karzai and major news organizations to explain that a collection of religious materials, including Qurans, had been mistakenly sent to be incinerated. As soon as someone realized what they were burning, they stopped and retrieved what was left, Allen said.

Four copies of the Quran were burned before the incineration was halted, according to initial Afghan government reports.

Anger about the burning spread overnight. A single demonstration outside the Bagram base on Tuesday gave way to three protests in the capital, Kabul, on Wednesday, along with demonstrations in the major eastern city of Jalalabad and in Logar and Parwan province, where Bagram is located.

In Kabul, about 2,000 people massed outside a heavily guarded housing complex for foreigners, chanting “Death to America!” as they hurled rocks at the compound’s reinforced walls

and set a fuel truck ablaze. The complex—known as “green village” because it boasts security equal to a military base—houses foreign contractors, police and some coalition military forces.

Eighteen-year-old Mohammad Shaker said he first heard about the Quran burning on Tuesday, and he and other members of his mosque decided to take to the streets Wednesday after morning prayers.

“This is not the first time they’re doing these things. They are killing civilians and taking photos of them. Every day they kill civilians with airstrikes. We can’t accept their crimes in our country,” Shaker said.

The demonstrations prompted the U.S. to lock down its embassy and bar its staff from traveling.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, **CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0178**

-vs-

JOAQUIN H. BORJA and SOOK M. BORJA Defendant(s)

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING LEAVE TO SERVE DEFENDANT SOOK M. BORJA

FOR GOOD CAUSE Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority’s (“CDA”) Ex Parte Motion to Serve Sook M. Borja is hereby GRANTED.

CDA is hereby given leave and shall, pursuant to 7 CMC § 1104(b), make service upon Sook M. Borja by publication in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth for four successive weeks, and the last publication shall be not less than twenty-one days before the return date stated herein.

Upon completion of service as ordered herein, in accordance with 7 CMC § 1102(b), Sook M. Borja shall be deemed to have been served with the same force and effect as if process had been personally served within the Commonwealth.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 30th day of January, 2012.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO, Associate Judge

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, **Small Claims No. 09-0429**

vs. **AMENDED SUMMONS**

SASAKI B. OLIVER, Defendant.

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT SASAKI B. OLIVER

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1ST Floor, Guma’ Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 12th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SALE/ASSIGNMENT OF LOANS RFP NO. RF 12-006

OPENING DATE: February 8, 2012 CLOSING DATE: March 12, 2012

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is seeking proposals from qualified financial institutions including government agencies interested in purchasing and capable of servicing the Fund's loan portfolios made under the Fund's Member Home Loan Program.

To receive the RFP packet, fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

**Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: (670) 664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com**

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

World

Shelling kills 2 Western journalists in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian gunners pounded an opposition stronghold where the last dispatches from a veteran American-born war correspondent chronicled the suffering of civilians caught in the relentless shelling. An intense morning barrage killed her and a French photojournalist—two of 74 deaths reported Wednesday in Syria.

"I watched a little baby die today," Marie Colvin told the BBC from the embattled city of Homs on Tuesday in one of her final reports.

"Absolutely horrific, a 2-year old child had been hit," added Colvin, who worked for Britain's Sunday Times. "They stripped it and found the shrapnel had gone into the left chest and the doctor said, 'I can't do anything.' His little tummy just



kept heaving until he died."

Colvin and photographer Remi Ochlik were among a group of journalists who had crossed into Syria and were sharing accommodations with activists, raising speculation

that government forces targeted the makeshift media center, although opposition groups had previously described the shelling as indiscriminate. At least two other Western journalists were wounded.

Hundreds of people have died in weeks of siege-style attacks on Homs that have come to symbolize the desperation and defiance of the nearly year-old uprising against President Bashar Assad.

The Syrian military appears to be stepping up assaults to block the opposition from gaining further ground and political credibility with the West and Arab allies. On Wednesday, helicopter gunships reportedly strafed mountain villages that shelter the rebel Free Syrian Army, and soldiers staged door-to-door raids in Damascus,

among other attacks.

The bloodshed and crackdowns brought some of the most galvanizing calls for the end of Assad's rule.

"That's enough now. The regime must go," said French President Nicolas Sarkozy after his government confirmed the deaths of Colvin, 56, and Ochlik, 28.

The U.S. and other countries have begun to cautiously examine possible military aid to the rebels. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton heads to Tunisia for a meeting Friday of more than 70 nations to look at ways to assist Assad's opponents, which now include hundreds of defected military officers and soldiers. "This tragic incident is another example of the shameless brutality of the Assad regime," U.S. State De-

partment spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said of the killing of the journalists.

In Saudi Arabia, the state news agency described King Abdullah scolding Russian President Dmitry Medvedev—one of Assad's few remaining allies—for joining China in vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution this month condemning the violence.

But even Moscow said the ongoing bloodshed adds urgency for a cease-fire to allow talks between his regime and opponents.

Washington had strongly opposed arming anti-Assad forces, fearing it could bring Syria into a full-scale civil war. Yet the mounting civilian death tolls—activists reported at least 74 across Syria on Wednesday—

has brought small but potentially significant shifts in U.S. strategies. It remains unclear, however, what kind of direct assistance the U.S. would be willing to provide.

The toppling of Assad also could mark a major blow to Iran, which depends on Damascus as its main Arab ally and a pathway to aid Iran's proxy Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"We don't want to take actions that would contribute to the further militarization of Syria because that could take the country down a dangerous path," White House press secretary Jay Carney said. "But we don't rule out additional measures if the international community should wait too long and not take the kind of action that needs to be taken."

Russia warns against 'hasty conclusions' over Iran

VIENNA (AP)—Russia said Wednesday the world should not draw "hasty conclusions" over Iran's most recent rebuff of U.N. attempts to investigate allegations the Islamic Republic hid secret work on atomic arms, but the U.S. and its allies accused Tehran of nuclear defiance.

Under international pressure to show restraint, Israel, which has warned repeatedly that it may strike Iran's nuclear facilities, pointedly urged major world powers to mind their own business, saying it alone would decide what to do to protect the Jewish state's security.

France said Iran's continued stonewalling of the International Atomic Energy Agency "is contrary to the intentions" expressed by Tehran in its recent offer to restart talks over its nuclear activities.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney said while world powers have not yet reached a decision on those talks, Iran's refusal to cooperate with the investigation "suggests that they have not changed their behavior when it

comes to abiding by their international obligations."

The IAEA's acknowledgment of renewed failure came early Wednesday at the conclusion of the second trip in less than a month aimed at investigating suspicions of covert Iranian nuclear weapons work.

The IAEA team had hoped to speak with key Iranian scientists suspected of working on the alleged weapons program, break down opposition to their plans to inspect documents related to nuclear work and secure commitments from Iranian authorities to allow future visits.

But mission head Herman Nackaerts acknowledged his team "could not find a way forward" in negotiations with Iranian officials. A separate IAEA communique clearly—if indirectly—blamed Tehran for the lack of progress.

"We engaged in a constructive spirit, but no agreement was reached," it quoted IAEA chief Yukiya Amano as saying.

Iran continued sounding a hard line, with supreme leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei telling the nation's nuclear scientists to forge ahead with the atomic program.

"Sanctions and political pressures won't have any effect. When a nation decides to resist, when it believes in its domestic power and its own capability, nothing can stop it," Khamenei told the scientists, adding: "I pray for you."

As on the previous visit that ended in early February, Iran did not grant requests by the IAEA mission to visit Parchin—a military site thought to be used for explosives testing related to nuclear detonations, the statement said.

The statement also said that no agreement was reached on how to begin "clarification of unresolved issues in connection with Iran's nuclear program, particularly those relating to possible military dimensions."

The Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security said Wednesday it had new indications of hidden weapons work by Iran.

Argentine train slams into station, killing 49



Deadly train crash

Hundreds of people were injured when a train's brakes malfunction at a Buenos Aires station.

**Once railway station
Train hits barrier at
end of platform at
about 16 mph (26 kph);
more than 40 killed**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The first two cars were packed as usual for the morning rush, so tightly that people stood pressed flesh to flesh, sandwiched between bicycles and the few seats, many without so much as a strap to hold onto.

This train didn't lurch, though. It had trouble stopping at all, overshooting platform after platform and missing at least one station entirely as it rushed toward the end of the line.

The train didn't come to a halt until it had slammed into a metal barrier at Buenos Aires' Once station. With eight cars carrying a mass of steel and humanity—more than 1,200 people on board—the momentum was devastating. Forty-nine people were killed and 600 were injured.

Windows exploded and the first cars were crushed into a jumble of glass, metal, plastic and bodies.

The cause wasn't immediately determined, but many pointed to a deteriorating rail

system and train cars that lack modern equipment and safety measures. Passengers said the conductor had appeared to be struggling with the brakes before the crash.

The dead included 48 adults and one child—most of whom had crowded into the first two cars to get ahead of the rush-hour crowds on arrival. The injured included 461 who were hospitalized, Transportation Secretary J.P. Schiavi said.

Passengers' friends and relatives were still rushing around the city hours later, checking emergency rooms and the city's two largest morgues for some sign of their loved ones.

Ezequiel Mercado, his mother-in-law and 10 other friends and family members frantically searched for his wife, Sabrina Espindola, 29, who didn't show up for work Wednesday. They checked nine hospitals before heading to the morgue. "I went everywhere. She is always with her BlackBerry. We are always in contact," he said.

"This morgue is the last place I thought of, but, well, she's missing. I call her cell phone, and it rings, rings, but she isn't responding."

Schiavi defended the rail system at a news conference.

"It was an accident like those in many other countries," he said, pointing to a newspaper clipping about a fatal crash in Los Angeles. "In recent years, we've made huge investments" in the system.

As Schiavi spoke, riot police faced off against angry passengers in the closed station, where emergency workers spent hours extracting dozens of people trapped inside the train's first car. Rescuers had to slice open the roof and set up a pulley system to ease them out one by one. Dozens of the injured were lined up on stretchers on the station platform.

The 28-year-old conductor, who survived the crash, was apparently well-rested, Schiavi said, having just begun his workday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez surgery throws Venezuela into uncertainty

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez has never been one to share decision-making authority. Now, the voluble socialist strongman and acerbic critic of the U.S. may have no choice but to designate a successor. His announcement that he will go to Cuba to remove a growth that he says is likely malignant could not come at a worse moment for the leader who is working to transform Venezuela with what he calls

"21st century socialism." With a tight re-election campaign brewing for the president, analysts said Wednesday that Venezuela could be thrown into turmoil because Chavez has resisted grooming a successor during his 13 years in power.

Ruling could spark coalition crisis in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced the unwelcome possibility of a coalition crisis on Wednesday after Israel's Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, overturned a law that has

helped ultra-Orthodox Jewish men avoid military service. The ruling addresses an issue that is at the center of a simmering cultural war between religious and secular Jews, and adds to Netanyahu's headaches as he prepares to travel to the White House for critical talks about Iran's nuclear program. Antagonism toward the ultra-Orthodox has grown in recent months over a series of incidents in which religious extremists were seen as attempting to impose their norms on wider society—such as the segregation of women on buses and even sidewalks.

Off the Wall

Nepalese man, 72, claims to be world's shortest

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—He has never worked outside the home or seen a doctor, and until Wednesday, he had never left his remote mountain village in western Nepal. So 72-year-old Chandra Bahadur Dangi only recently learned he might be the world's shortest man.

Dangi says he's only 22 inches (56 centimeters) tall—about the size of a toddler—and he's hoping to claim the title. Guinness World Records said in an email Wednesday that its officials would arrive in Nepal's capital Sunday to measure Dangi.

Dangi took his first trip outside his village and his first trip on a plane to reach Katmandu on Wednesday.

"I am very happy to be in Katmandu for the first time in my life. I am here so I can take the Guinness title," Dangi told reporters at the airport.

Dangi, who has never been married, lives with his eldest brother and his family in Rhimkholi village, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) west of Katmandu. Because of his height, he has never worked outside the house, doing only household chores. His five brothers are of average size.

His family is not sure when he stopped growing, and Dangi said he has never been checked by a medical doctor. He attended a few classes in the village school, but soon dropped out.

Dangi eats mainly rice and vegetables, and occasionally meat, but in small portions.

Since the village is so remote, it was only recently that Dangi gained notice. A forest contractor cutting timber in the village met him and informed local media after Dangi's height was measured.

Dangi's nephew, Dolak Dangi, said that before the contractor's visit, the family did not know his uncle's exact height, and that he was shorter than the world's shortest man.

Guinness currently recognizes Junrey Balawing of the Philippines, who is 23.5 inches (60 centimeters) tall.

Another Nepalese man, Khagendra Thapa Magar, was



Nepalese Chandra Bahadur Dangi, 72, who says he's only 22 inches (56 centimeters) tall arrives at the airport in Katmandu, Nepal, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012. AP

known as the world's shortest man, at 26.4 inches (67 centimeters), before Balawing took over the title on his 18th birthday in June.

In December, Guinness recognized an Indian teenager as the world's shortest woman. Jyoti Amge is 24.7 inches (62.8 centimeters) tall and wants to

attend university and become a Bollywood star.

Aside from a Guinness certificate, the titles do not come with any cash award.

Paraguay: Stray dog's barking foils prison break

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—A stray dog is getting credit for thwarting a prison break in Paraguay.

Officials say three dangerous inmates dug a tunnel about 26 feet (eight meters) from their cell to the street, and were about to break free just before dawn when the dog began to bark and alerted a guard.

Authorities at the Tacumbú prison on the southern edge of the capital dragged the unlucky

prisoners before the media on Friday to tell the tale.

"Because of a stray dog we couldn't escape," complained Hilario Villalba. "When I reached the street, sticking my head out, the stupid dog barked and alerted a guard."

Villalba, who is serving a 30-year double-murder sentence, vowed in his native Guaraní language that he'll keep keep trying to escape because he said

his sentence isn't fair.

Meanwhile in neighboring Argentina, a yellow labrador named Tiza alerted border guards to a motorist trying to smuggle \$110,000 in \$100 bills into Uruguay. The driver denied carrying any money, but the dog sniffed out the bills hidden in the glove compartment, another compartment and inside the rear seats, Argentina's tax collection agency announced Friday.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NY boy sleeps through theft of dad's running car

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—Police in upstate New York say a 6-year-old boy snoozing in his father's car never woke up while the vehicle was being stolen after it was left running outside a store. Officers tell Rochester media outlets that a 26-year-old man from Irondequoit left his car running while he went inside a convenience store to get a drink late Saturday night. While inside the store, someone jumped into the car and drove off with the boy asleep in the car. Police say the car was found abandoned within 30 minutes. Officials say the boy wasn't harmed and had slept through the entire ordeal. Police charged the boy's father with endangering the welfare of a child. The car thief hasn't been found.

Emu escapes from Vt. farm, on the lam for 5 weeks

SOUTH HERO, Vt. (AP)—An elusive emu on the lam in Vermont has been amusing residents in communities on Lake Champlain. The 150-pound flightless bird looks like a small ostrich. It has been spotted wandering here and there in Grand Isle and South Hero since it escaped from a local farm five weeks ago. It was spotted again Friday outside the South Hero elementary school, where it walked by a window of the principal's office. School worker Steve Berard tried to lasso it with an extension cord, but it broke free. The emu's owner tells WCAX-TV he bought three emus for his grandchildren but they don't make great pets. He's taken out an ad in a local newspaper saying, "Free emu if you can capture it."

Gun found inside piano donated to nursing home

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Police say an unloaded gun has been found inside a piano that was donated to a southeast Michigan nursing home years ago. AnnArbor.com reports that staff at Whitehall Healthcare Center in Pittsfield Township, 5 miles south of Ann Arbor, found the gun Friday in a case inside the piano. Pittsfield Township deputy police chief Gordy Schick says he suspects the Ruger .22 caliber pistol was hidden long before the musical instrument was donated to the home. Schick says police checked a state database but found no registered owner for the gun. They are trying to determine its last owner by checking the serial number against Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives records.

NM woman heads to trial for stealing \$2 pumpkin

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A 23-year-old college student from New Mexico is scheduled to go to trial for allegedly stealing a small pumpkin worth two dollars. KOAT-TV in Albuquerque, N.M., reports that Lauren Medina will go before a jury and Moriarty Magistrate Judge Steve Jones on Tuesday. She is accused of taking the pumpkin in October 2011 from McCall's Pumpkin Patch in Moriarty. Her sister, Annette Atencio, says Medina spent \$75 on food that day but forgot to pay for the pumpkin she picked up as she was leaving. Atencio says her sister offered to pay but was refused and then handcuffed. Atencio says she's in disbelief that the theft charge against her sister was not dropped. She says her sister could have pleaded guilty and be given probation, but refused.

First Year Death Anniversary



In Loving Memory of

Isidro Rabauliman Ogarto
"Kazu"

We, the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in celebrating the passing of our Beloved Isidro into eternal life. Daily Masses of intention will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at the San Jose Church beginning on Tuesday, February 28th through March 7, 2012. On Sunday, March 4, 2012, mass will be held at 7:30 a.m.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Ghilisow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you!

Science & Technology

Lightening up your email inbox

By **SCOTT J. WILSON**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Email can be a useful tool, but the sheer volume can be overwhelming. This year, around 349 billion emails will be sent worldwide, according to the

market research firm Radicati Group Inc. That total is expected to grow to 507 billion by 2013. Here's how to stem the flow to your inbox:

■ Be careful about giving out your email address. When you fill out a form, subscribe to a

magazine or enter a drawing, consider whether to provide your email address. Some online "free giveaway" promotions are designed to harvest email addresses for marketing lists.

■ Use a spam filter. Many email providers—including Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo Mail—come with built-in protections against unwanted advertising messages. If yours doesn't, you can buy third-party software. If you're getting spam on your work email, ask your IT department for help.

■ Think carefully before hitting "reply to all." This option is "a huge source of email overload in almost every organization," said Jonathan B. Spira, author of "Overload: How Too Much Information Is Hazardous to Your Organi-

zation." The more people you email, the more emails you'll get back.

■ Unsubscribe. Sure, it might have made sense at one time to sign up for that email newsletter or put your name on a certain mailing list. But are you still reading those emails? If not, find the unsubscribe link, usually at the bottom of the message. Alternatively, Unsubscribe.com offers a plug-in tool to help you get off lists.

■ Talk. This suggestion may seem so, well, 20th century. But a single phone call—or simply walking down the hall to the person's desk—can often be quicker and more effective than exchanging multiple emails. Conversation offers the opportunity for give-and-take that's not possible via email.

Webcam fails to alert condo owner

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a Web camera set up in my condo in Winter Haven, Fla., so that I can tell if anyone enters it when I'm at home in Colliers, W.Va. The camera is supposed to send photos to my email address whenever the Web camera is activated by motion. But I'm not getting the email alerts, even though I know people have entered my Florida condo. The camera is a Cisco Model No. WVC80N. What can I do?—Dave Velez, Winter Haven, Fla.

ANSWER: You may not have set up your camera as Cisco intended. The camera, also known by the brand name Linksys, is designed to work through an intermediary company, TZO.com, which passes the video from the Florida camera to your email account in West Virginia.

Why? Your Florida Internet service provider may occasionally switch your camera's Internet Protocol (IP) address; TZO.com keeps track of that so that the video transmission isn't interrupted.

Try setting up your camera again. Details can be found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/76slda7>, and a helpful video is at <http://www.tinyurl.com/83jun8y>.

■ ■ ■
Q: When I signed up for Netflix online, I used a Comcast email address. The next day, Netflix sent emails to my AOL address. How'd Netflix get my AOL address?—Mary Swanson, Edina, Minn.

A: Maybe it didn't. I suspect that your AOL address received a new scam e-mail

that uses the Netflix name to fool people into downloading malicious software. See <http://www.tinyurl.com/64axkgn> and <http://www.tinyurl.com/73l1fh8>. If that's the case, it's merely coincidence that you received the scam email right after signing up for Netflix using another email address.

■ ■ ■
Q: A friend of mine bought a three-book package on her Kindle e-reader, but only the first book downloaded. What can she do?—Gloria Majka, Syracuse, N.Y.

A: She could have trouble downloading books if the Kindle has a low battery; is in an area with poor wireless coverage, or hasn't been turned off recently. Try turning the Kindle off, then on again; this works wonders on nearly any type of computer or smartphone. Also charge the battery, and try downloading from a different location. (If the Kindle uses Wi-Fi, get closer to the Wi-Fi antenna; if it uses the 3G cellular network, get closer to a window or go outdoors.)

If those things don't work, you can find more advice at <http://tinyurl.com/6nxmztq>.

If none of these do-it-yourself fixes works, there may be a flaw in your friend's Kindle. If so, she has a one-year warranty from the date of purchase. Contact Amazon by filling out the form at <http://www.tinyurl.com/844buap>.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



Homework help, available via smartphone

By **REID KANALEY**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Some mobile applications actually help kids do their homework rather than avoid it. Here are a few that put the "smart" in a smartphone.

Math, from YourTeacher.com, is free for the first five lessons on an iPhone. To keep going, though, it requires a one-time \$9.99 payment. The company makes instructional apps for Apple and Android.

From the opening screen in Math, type a keyword, such as "equations," to see a list of lessons that include word problems and real-world uses for the knowledge, such as figuring sales taxes, discounts, and interest. Each lesson has examples, problems, and printable practice and review sheets.

Wolfram Algebra Course, by Wolfram Alpha LLC, is \$1.99. Titles for calculus, music theory, and other subjects are also available at various prices for Android and Apple. The algebra course provides opportunities to view examples or to plug in an equation to examine its parts, calculate a solution, plot the results, and ... do more math stuff than I was ready for.

The Wolfram courses are an extension of the brilliant "computational knowledge engine" at Wolframalpha.com, which handles a lot of the inquiries that iPhone4s users put to the "personal assistant" app, Siri.

HowStuffWorks, by HowStuffWorks.com, is a free, advertising-supported app version of the popular website, for Apple and Android. It has a search screen, podcasts such as "Stuff You Missed in History Class" and "Car Stuff," and chat and Twitter functions. Share or save your findings.

Homeworkhelp.com makes dozens of subject-specific apps for learning and review. They include instruction for SAT and ACT preparation. Titles in the App Store, some free, some not, include lessons in various levels of math, the state capitals, grammar, and vocabulary.

I looked at Homeworkhelp.com's \$2.99 Probability and Statistics app. Lessons begin simply by explaining the practical uses for knowing probability, and progress through frequency tables, exponential distributions, and linear regression. Some reviewers complain about there being no practice problems.

Encyclopaedia Britannica is \$1.99 a month for iPhone. I grew up in a house with a sagging bookshelf of encyclopedia volumes, including the massive Britannica. It's still authoritative, but now it fits in your pocket, has more features and costs way less.

In an article, tap the "link map" icon to see a chart of related topics and articles for easy browsing. You can turn off your subscription renewals in iPhone settings.

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Act of Valor				
Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	
Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez Adventure, Action • Rated R				

Synopsis
An elite team of US Navy SEALs race against the clock to stop a planned terrorist attack on U.S. soil in this film inspired by actual events, which also features a cast of active-duty soldiers. With each successful mission, the Bandito Platoon uncovers another piece of the puzzle that leads them on a worldwide chase to prevent an act of terror that could alter the course of history. Later, at the U.S./Mexico border, the fight for the future of America comes to an explosive climax. Even when it seems as if evil may prevail, the courageous, determined SEALs never show signs of backing down or giving up.

Gone				
Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	
Amanda Seyfried, Sebastian Stan Suspense, Thriller • Rated PG 13				

Synopsis
A young woman (Amanda Seyfried) prepares to confront the serial killer who previously abducted her, and who has now sought vengeance by kidnapping her sister in this thriller that also features Jennifer Carpenter and Sebastian Stan.

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance				
Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	
Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido Action • Rated PG 13				

Synopsis
Nicolas Cage returns as the spirit of vengeance with this sequel to 2007's Ghost Rider from the Crank team of Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor.

This Means War				
Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	
Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine Comedy • Rated PG 13				

Journey2: Mysterious Island				
Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	
The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine Adventure • Rated PG				

Safe House				
Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	
Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds Spy film, Thriller • Rated R				

Chronicle				
Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	
Dane DeHaan, Alex Russel Thriller • Rated PG 13				

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Cowell: 'X Factor' wants 2 female judges, 2 hosts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Cowell is playing it coy about rumors that Fergie, Britney Spears and Janet Jackson are being considered for "The X Factor."

Two judges' spots on the Fox TV singing contest opened up when Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger left after the first season. Cowell told a teleconference Wednesday that two women will replace them, but he declined to comment on who's being considered.

"There's been a load of speculation, some true, some not true," Cowell said. He added that he waited to see who was interested enough to ask about joining the show before focusing on the search.

Judge Antonio "L.A." Reid

confirmed there had been discussions about adding Whitney Houston but no contact was made with her. Houston died Feb. 11.

Meetings will be held over the next few weeks with "a number of people," Cowell said, primarily to make it clear to contenders how much of a time commitment "X Factor" represents.

He didn't shed much light on the departures of Abdul and Scherzinger, saying only that shows evolve and "this time it was decided to do it sooner or later." He said the two have been "incredibly gracious and respectful" and he's looking forward to working with them again.

With host Steve Jones' exit, Cowell said he wants to switch to a two-host format that would

better suit the show and the amount of information that needs to be explained, entertainingly, to viewers. He didn't say who might be hired but said they could be people who don't have "host" on their resume.

He's not looking far for new judges and emcees, Cowell indicated, saying, "it's important we have more Americans on the show."

Cowell, who's a judge on the Fox show he based on his hit British series, is English. Jones is Welsh.

He was guarded about guessing the ratings for "X Factor" when it returns this fall for its second season. After Cowell predicted it would be a hit in its freshman outing with 20 million viewers, the

show averaged around 12 million weekly viewers, which is respectable but not a blockbuster.

"I should have kept my mouth shut," Cowell said. It took time for "American Idol," the home he and Abdul once shared, and NBC's "The Voice" to grow in the ratings, he said, expressing confidence the same will happen for "X Factor."

"I absolutely expect the second season to do better than the first season," he said. "We're not doing this to be second or third. ... We've learned how to make the show better."

Asked when the first release from season-one winner Melanie Amaro would be out, Cowell said the project wasn't being rushed, to do justice to her talent.

Judge to Lohan: Keep up good work

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan drew praise Wednesday from a judge who said the actress was one court hearing away from putting a long-running drunken driving case behind her.

"Ms. Lohan, you're in the home stretch," Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner told the actress. "The probation officer is pleased with your progress."

The former Disney star has progressed under strict probation guidelines imposed by Sautner last year, including weekly stints working at the morgue and therapy sessions.

Lohan, 25, now has to work 14 days at the morgue and attend five therapy sessions before the judge ends her probation on a 2007 drunken driving case that has dogged Lohan for years.

She is due back in court on March 29 for what could be her final court appearance if she stays out of trouble.

Lohan would remain on informal probation for a case filed after she took a necklace without permission in January 2011 but would no longer have to report to a probation officer or appear in court for frequent updates.



In this Feb. 8, 2012 photo, Actress Lindsay Lohan attends amfAR's New York gala benefit at Cipriani Wall Street in New York.

The model-actress is attempting a career comeback and is scheduled to host "Saturday

Night Live" on March 3.

"You seem to be getting your life back on track," Sautner told her.

Man's childhood comic collection fetches \$3.5M

DALLAS (AP)—Billy Wright plunked down dime after dime for comic books while growing up in the late 1930s and early 1940s, caring for the collection he started around the age of 9 until his death more than half a century later. On Wednesday, most of that collection sold for a whopping \$3.5 million.

Wright's 345 comics, nearly all of which were published from 1936 through 1941, included many of the most prized issues ever, including Detective Comics No. 27, which features the debut of Batman, and Action Comics No. 1, in which Superman's first appears.

Experts say Wright's collection, which included 44 of The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide's top 100 issues from comics' golden age, was remarkable

for its number of rare issues, but also because it was compiled by a single person in childhood who kept it in good condition until his death in 1994 at age 66.

"This really has its place in the history of great comic book collections," said Lon Allen, the managing director of comics for Dallas-based Heritage Auctions, which oversaw the auction in New York City.

The copy of Detective Comics No. 27, from 1939, drew the highest bid Wednesday, selling for \$523,000, including a buyer's premium, Allen said. Wright's Action Comics No. 1, from 1938, sold for about \$299,000; Batman No. 1, from 1940, sold for about \$275,000; and Captain America No. 2, a 1941 issue with Adolf Hitler on the cover, sold for about \$114,000.

Franklin says Houston's mother raised her well

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin says Cissy Houston raised her daughter Whitney Houston well—and that an interview where Franklin said parents need to make sure children "leave home prepared" was taken out of context.

Franklin released a statement Wednesday, four days after Houston's funeral. She was expected to sing at the funeral in Newark, N.J., Houston's hometown, but bowed out because of leg spasms she said she suffered after a concert at Radio City Music Hall the night before. She performed again at Radio City the night of Houston's funeral, and paid tribute to Houston as "a very fine young lady."

In an interview about Houston on NBC's "Today" show last week, Al Roker asked

Franklin about Houston's superstardom.

Franklin said: "I think parents have to really talk to their children before they leave home ... (that they) leave home prepared, really. She left home with all the right things."

After Franklin didn't attend the funeral, there were some reports that Houston's mother was upset over Franklin's comments and that Franklin was uninvited, a charge Franklin denies.

"Cissy Houston and I have been longtime friends for almost 50 years. I have four invitations and parking passes that were sent to me for the funeral," Franklin said. "Cissy does not need ridiculous speculation and neither do I particularly at this time."

Resentful husband's lies have broken marriage beyond repair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Roman" for 13 years. He has always been a man of few words who didn't initiate much on his own, so I stepped up to bat and did everything. I took over all aspects of our married life—from bill paying to home maintenance to romance. He would tell me how grateful he was to me for doing it.

His adult daughters from a previous marriage have always been cold to me, and I recently found out why. It turns out Roman made up horrible, untrue stories behind my back. He painted himself as the victim of abuse! His daughters staged an "intervention" to save their dad, and Roman went along with them. He cleared out our bank accounts, hid money and assets and filed for divorce. I was stunned.

Abby, he went along with the charade for a week—until his guilt got the better of him, and he admitted he had made it all up. He claims he doesn't want to divorce me after all. He said he made up the stories to get his daughters' attention.

Roman and I are now going through counseling, and I am assuming responsibility for my part in this mess. He harbors strong resentment toward me and resorted to passive-aggressive revenge. We're both doing our best to establish forthright, honest and open lines of communication.

The problem is his daughters still believe the lies. They hate me and won't speak to their father unless he divorces me. I'm not sure what to do. Roman has lost his family and he may lose me, too. The damage is so widespread I don't know what can be regained. Have you any advice for me?

OLDER, WISER AND HEARTBROKEN

DEAR OLDER, WISER AND HEARTBROKEN: Your letter made me furious. It proves that with your husband no good deed goes unpunished. Had you not taken on the functions your husband avoided, your credit would be shot, your house would be a wreck and your sex life nonexistent. And for this your husband slandered you?

That he would lie to his daughters about you is disgusting. That he then made a money grab and hid assets is appalling. What have you to gain from continuing this marriage? If I were you, I'd contact a divorce lawyer AND a forensic accountant, divide the assets and let the daughters take care of their ingrate of a father.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I belong to a supper club comprised of four couples. We have enjoyed our monthly gatherings for years and have developed a strong bond with each couple. As a rule, each one takes turns hosting the event in their home. The recent behavior of one hostess has us baffled.

For starters, "Lynn" sometimes seats herself and her husband at a separate table, even though there's room at the main table. She also involves herself with activities I consider rude—taking calls on her cell, perusing Facebook, doing paperwork. It's beginning to feel as though we are an obligation rather than wanted guests.

Members of our group have been hesitant to discuss this with her because we don't want to create tension in the group we have come to hold dear. Any suggestions?

GETTING SERVED A COLD DISH

DEAR GETTING SERVED: It appears there is already tension in the group you have come to hold dear. For a host to behave the way Lynn has is rude. Whoever in the group is closest to Lynn should have a chat with her about it — preferably face-to-face—and ask her to explain. It's possible that the responsibility of hosting has become too much for her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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SOLUTION TIME: 25 mins.

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword and 1-800-928-5869 \$30 per month + 10% international charges. 1181 10th Ave. New York, NY 10018

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Zane, 46; Debra Jo Rupp, 61; Helen Shaver, 61; Edward James Olmos, 65.

Happy Birthday: Keep your plans a secret if you want to avoid opposition. It will be difficult to get along with people who have a different agenda. Getting worked up will not benefit your cause or impress the people you need on your team. Size up your situation and make clean-cut changes before someone beats you to it. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 22, 34, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Settle down before you make a mistake. Misunderstandings are apparent, and emotional upset will escalate. Counteract your impulsive reactions by keeping busy and steering clear of anyone who may get your dander up. Make love, not war. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put more effort into friendships, learning and expanding your interests. The more you do for others, the better you will feel about who you are and what you are capable of doing. A new beginning will change your life. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do for others what you expect in return. Don't give in to anyone trying to make you look bad. Rise above controversy and make the most of your day by using your skills and charm to win favors and excel. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Follow through with a creative idea, or sign up for a class that will allow you to use your imagination. Communicate to bring about changes you feel are necessary to a healthy relationship with a friend, relative or neighbor. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Live a little, and bring some excitement into your life. A last-minute change of plans or visiting a place you've never been before will be a great catalyst to get you moving in a new direction. Love and romance are highlighted. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put more emphasis on money matters and how you can make assets grow and liabilities disappear. Change is required and opportunity is present, so don't hesitate to take advantage of a chance to stabilize your future. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't give in to intimidation. Take control and make up your own mind regarding what you want and how you are going to get it. Re-evaluate an important relationship. Equality will help rekindle the connection. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your heart on the line. Let the people in your life know how you feel and what you intend to do. Opportunity will develop if you share your ideas. Consider partnering with someone who can contribute to your success. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make a difference at home if you do your best to contribute to changes that keep everyone happy. Refrain from trying to manipulate a situation that must be allowed to develop naturally. Love is in the stars. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get in touch with people you have worked with in the past. Don't let the expectations of others get you down. You have to do what works best for you. Experience will help you make the right choice now. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Making a lifestyle change and hanging out with different people will do you good. A chance to try something new or to put your skills to work is apparent. Once you get started, many doors will open. Love is on the rise. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be honest about your capabilities. If you cannot live up to the picture you've painted, you will ruin your chance to work with someone special. Your willingness to take direction and learn from others will make a difference. ★★

Birthday Baby: You have speed, agility and a unique approach. You are versatile, progressive and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	5				7			
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Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	7	4	2	1	8	9	6
2	6	1	9	8	3	5	4	7
9	8	4	8	5	7	3	2	1
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1	4	8	2	7	6	9	5	3
3	2	0	1	4	5	6	7	8
4	9	6	8	1	2	7	3	5
8	5	2	7	0	4	1	6	9
7	1	3	5	6	9	2	8	4

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

How do you say...? Find the word in the grid. The grid contains only letters and numbers. Words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and backwards. The words are listed in the grid.

Clayton's

Solutions: 7 letters

M	O	S	P	E	A	C	H	Y	Y	N	E	E	R	O
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Answers:

1. MOSPEACHY (Across)

2. YNEERO (Across)

3. EEL (Across)

4. ILL (Across)

5. SILENT (Across)

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100. EEL (Across)

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Joeten Center, Susupe
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Contact: 285-1487

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement
JVA No. 12-006

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, February 27, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Safety Officer or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Saipan.
Salary: \$17,000 to \$20,000 per annum.
Positions: Two.
Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement
JVA No. 12-005

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, February 27, 2012

Warehouse Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Conducts year-end physical inventory of all inventory stock materials. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Lower Base, Saipan.
Salary: \$11,036.00 per annum.
Position: One.
Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skills in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Must be able to obtain: Forklift Certification.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Lakers hit midway mark with win over Dallas



DALLAS (AP)—Andrew Bynum had 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers hit the halfway point of their season with a 96-91 victory over the defending NBA champion Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

Bynum had a huge smile on his face when he grabbed a rebound of his own miss and was fouled trying to go back up with 5:29 left. He made both free throws to break an 82-all tie and finally put the Lakers (20-13) ahead to stay after 13 ties and 10 lead changes.

Pau Gasol had 24 points for the Lakers, while Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher each had 15.

Dirk Nowitzki had 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Mavericks (21-13), who played their final game before the All-Star break. Vince Carter had 20.

After the Mavericks failed to take advantage of a turnover by Bryant when Jason Terry gave it right back, Bynum was underneath the basket with the ball. But he instead passed it to Fisher in the left corner for a 3-pointer. Bynum was smiling broadly when he ran and hugged Fisher when Dallas called timeout.

Fisher's driving short jumper with 3:41 left ended a 9-0 run that made it 89-82. The Lakers held on despite missing six consecutive free throws after that.

Bryant missed two free throws with 37 seconds left. After Nowitzki's tip-in got the Mavericks within 93-91, Gasol was fouled and missed both of his free throws with 20 seconds left.

But Matt Barnes grabbed the rebound and was quickly fouled. He ended the Lakers' charity-line slump with two free throws.

Bynum had one more big play in that closing streak, with an alley-oop dunk from Bryant with 1:05 left for a 93-86 lead.

The Lakers have one more game before the All-Star break, on Thursday night at Oklahoma City.

Lamar Odom missed the game for the Mavericks against his former team. Odom was the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year for the Lakers last season and won three NBA championship rings in seven years in Los Angeles.

Coach Rick Carlisle said Odom was excused from the game to attend to a family matter and will rejoin the team after the All-Star break.

Steve Blake had a steal on a turnover by Terry and passed ahead to Gasol for a one-handed slam that gave the Lakers their largest lead, 42-28 with 6:21 left in the first half.

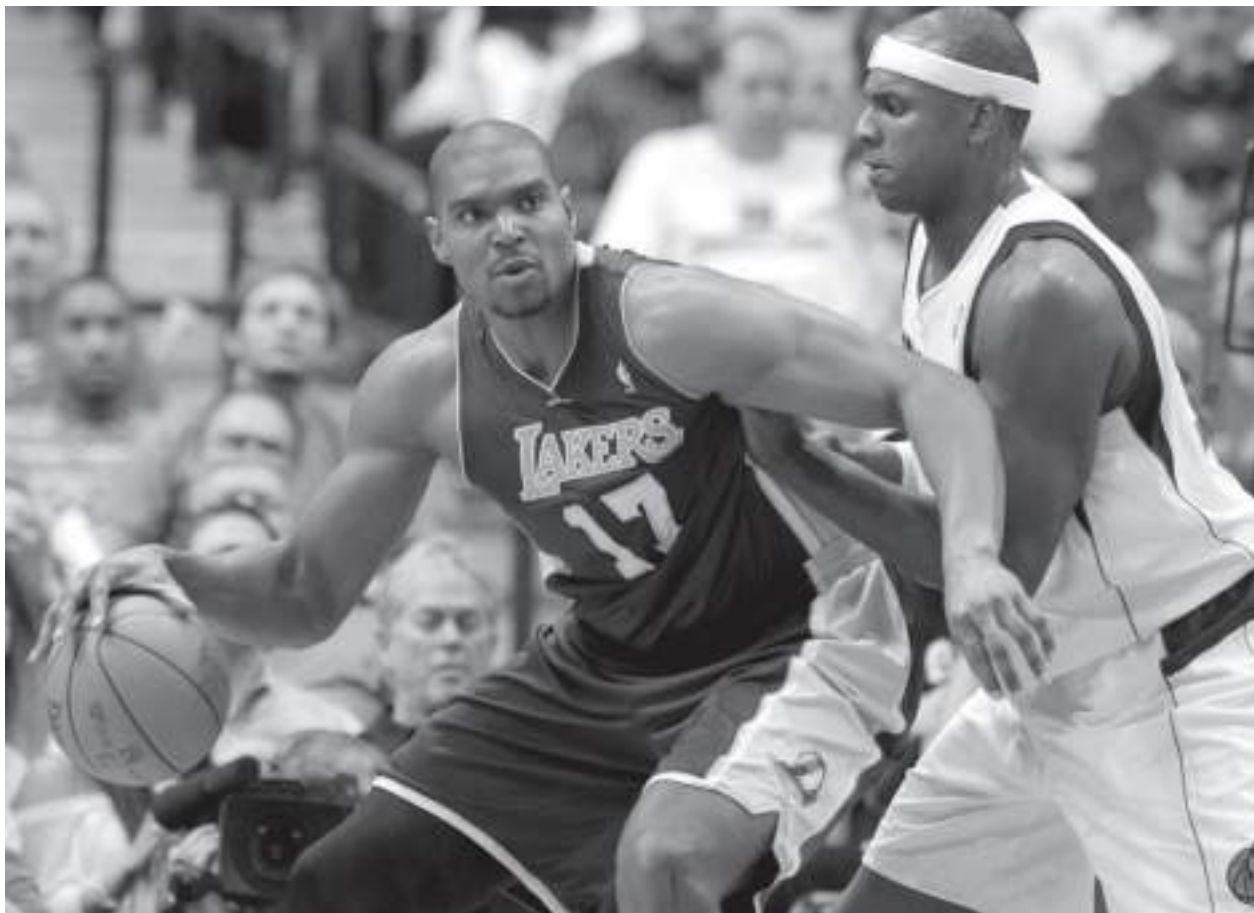
That was the end of 12 consecutive points that were part of a 17-2 Los Angeles run.

That included a pair of 3-pointers by Andrew Goudelock in a 66-second span. In between that was another turnover by Terry that Troy Murphy turned into a layup when he realized nobody was around him under the basket.

But the Mavericks finished the half with a 20-6 run over the final 5:33 to tie the game at 48-all by the break.

Nowitzki scored the last six Dallas points, two free throws with 1:23 and then a pair of jumpers in the final 42 seconds. He made a 15-foot floater and after grabbing a long rebound of a miss by Gasol, Nowitzki made a tying jumper.

The Lakers jumped out to a 12-3 lead in the first 4 minutes of the game, and



Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum (17) fights for position against Dallas Mavericks' Brendan Haywood, right, in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012, in Dallas.

coach Rick Carlisle had already used two timeouts by then.

They needed only 2 minutes after the second timeout to get back within 12-10 when Carter hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Bryant was still scoreless until two free throws with 10 seconds left in the first quarter to make it 25-18. Carter made a 3-pointer to end the first and a short jumper to start the second, though the Mavericks didn't take their first lead on Brian Cardinal's 3-pointer from the left corner.

But Barnes hit a 3-pointer from the left corner to start the 17-2 Lakers run.

Thunder 119, Celtics 104

In Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Thunder made it 11 straight home wins with a win over the Boston Celtics, extending its lead in the NBA Western Conference to three games.

Russell Westbrook scored 31 points and Kevin Durant added 28 for Oklahoma City, who led by as much as 27 points before Boston hit back to get within six with 3:31 left. Durant banked in a pair of jump shots and hit two free throws during an 11-2 run that sealed it.

Kevin Garnett's return after a two-game absence wasn't enough to lift the Celtics, who were still without point guard Rajon Rondo as he served the second of a two-game suspension.

Paul Pierce and Garnett scored 23 points apiece, and Garnett also had 13 rebounds.

Clippers 103, Nuggets 95

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul scored a season-high 36 points to lead Los Angeles past Denver.

Blake Griffin added 27. He and Paul are headed to the All-Star game as starters, having led their team to a 20-11 record in the first half of the lockout-shortened season.

Arron Afflalo scored 20 points for the injury-riddled Nuggets, who lost their fifth in a row on the road. They played without Danilo Gallinari, Ty Lawson, Nene and Rudy Fernandez.

Bulls 110, Bucks 91

In Chicago, the hosts beat Milwaukee for the seventh straight time.

Carlos Boozer scored 20 points, while Joakim Noah had 13 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for the first triple-double by a Chicago center since Artis Gilmore in 1977.

The Central Division leaders built an 11-point halftime lead and broke it open in the third quarter, a nice send-off for the All-Star break.

Brandon Jennings scored 20 points to lead the Bucks.

Rockets 93, 76ers 87

In Houston, Luis Scola had 19 points and 10 rebounds to lead Houston to a tight win over Philadelphia.

Kyle Lowry added 13 points and two crucial late 3-pointers for the Rockets, who've won three in a row and snapped a four-game home-court losing streak to Philadelphia.

Nikola Vucevic scored a career-high 18 points for the Sixers, who will head into the All-Star break on a five-game losing skid.

Knicks 99, Hawks 82

In New York, Jeremy Lin had an easy night ahead of his toughest opponent yet, as New York tuned up for a trip to Miami by beating Atlanta.

Lin had 17 points and nine assists, sitting out most of the fourth quarter in a rare rest after his remarkable run of games during which the Knicks usually relied heavily upon him.

Carmelo Anthony scored 15 points in his second game back from injury for the Knicks, who shot 52 percent in the first half, scored 30 points in both periods, and led 60-35 at the break.

Jeff Teague scored 16 points for the Hawks. They played without All-Star guard Joe Johnson, who sustained a knee injury on Monday. Atlanta has lost three straight.

Magic 108, Nets 91

In Newark, Dwight Howard had 20 points and 17 rebounds to help Orlando roll to victory against New Jersey—

Glen Davis, who hit his first seven shots, added 16 points for the Magic, who shot 62.5 percent in the opening 12 minutes to jump out to a 34-17 lead.

Deron Williams had 23 points, six rebounds and eight assists to lead New Jersey.

Timberwolves 100, Jazz 98

In Minneapolis, Luke Ridnour hit a floater at the buzzer, capping Minnesota's comeback from 16 points down in the fourth quarter to beat Utah.

Utah's Al Jefferson sank a jumper to tie the score 98-98 with 7 seconds remaining. After a timeout, Ridnour took a pass from J.J. Barea, drove into the lane, and sank a shot over Jefferson as the buzzer sounded.

Barea finished with 22 points and matched a career high with five 3-pointers, and Ridnour added 17 points.

Paul Millsap scored 25 as the Jazz lost their third straight.

Warriors 106, Suns 104

In Phoenix, Monta Ellis hit an 20-foot fadeaway jump shot with 1 second remaining to lift Golden State over Phoenix.

Channing Frye's 3-point attempt for the Suns rolled off the back of the rim at the buzzer, and the Warriors took their first win in Phoenix since 2004-05.

Ellis finished with a game-high 26 points, while Dorell Wright had 23 for the Warriors, who squandered a 21-point lead before rallying in the final 2:16.

Golden State won despite playing most of the game without Stephen Curry, who strained a foot tendon late in the first quarter.

Frye had 22 points to lead the Suns.

Pacers 102, Bobcats 88

In Charlotte, Tyler Hansbrough had a season-high 22 points and nine rebounds as Indiana continued its dominance of Charlotte.

The Pacers have beaten the Bobcats nine time straight times, including twice this week. This game was much closer than the 35-point rout Sunday—

for three quarters.

The Pacers led by 10 after three but began to pull away in the fourth. Danny Granger had 12 points as Indiana won its fourth game in a row to remain in second place in the Central Division.

Corey Maggette scored 20 points as Charlotte lost its 18th in 19 games.

Raptors 103, Pistons 93

In Toronto, the hosts ended a run of three successive losses by defeating Detroit.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Aaron Gray set season highs with 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who also ended a three-game skid against the Pistons.

Greg Monroe had 30 points and 14 rebounds for Detroit.

Hornets 89, Cavaliers 84

In Cleveland, New Orleans held off a late rally by the home side and edged Cleveland.

Chris Kaman scored 21 points and Marco Belinelli added 19, with both getting key late baskets. Cleveland had crept within two points with 2:08 to play before Kaman's dunk and Belinelli's 3-pointer bumped that out to seven with just over a minute on the clock.

Antawn Jamison led Cleveland with 22 points.

Kings 115, Wizards 107

In Washington, Marcus Thornton scored 18 of his 22 points in the second half to guide Sacramento to victory over Washington.

Rookie Isaiah Thomas had 16 of his 18 after halftime for the Kings, who broke a six-game losing slump and salvaged a win in the finale of their six-game road trip.

Jordan Crawford scored a season-high 32 points for the Wizards, who have lost four straight.

The Kings led 104-103 with 3:44 to play before closing with an 11-4 run.

Report: Lin turned down 'millions' in endorsements

Jeremy Lin's agent, Roger Montgomery, has already turned down "millions" in endorsement deals for the New York Knicks guard, according to the New York Post.

"There's been so much interest, and so many people reaching out, it is overwhelming," a source told the Post. "They're working to build a team to handle all this, and hiring marketing and P.R. executives. He has met with IMG."

Montgomery has reportedly received over 1,000 emails a day from potential brands who want to work with Lin. Some of the deals have been worth "millions of dollars," a source told the paper.

"Jeremy doesn't want to jump into anything," the source told the Post. "He wants to sit back and wait and see what suits him. He's not looking for the quick money. The deals have to be right."

In the last 10 games Lin has started all and averaged, 24.6 points, 9.2 assists, and 4.1 rebounds, and has led the Knicks to an 8-2 record in that span. (www.si.com)

Nolan Ryan says these Rangers are his best team



SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)—

Texas Rangers president and CEO Nolan Ryan says the team assembling for this spring training “is as strong a club as we’ve ever been.”

At a packed news conference Wednesday, the Hall of Fame pitcher spoke of how impressed he is with the team’s expensive addition from Japan, right-hander Yu Darvish, then talked of the addiction struggles of outfielder Josh Hamilton and his high expectations for this club.

Ryan based his optimism on the Rangers’ talented young starting rotation and the nucleus of good players still in their prime.

The two-time defending AL champions signed Darvish to a six-year, \$56 million contract after paying his Japanese club \$51.7 million just to have the chance to acquire him.

“It’s exciting that he has the following that he does and so many people are excited about it,” Ryan said. “I walked through the airport and not many Americans know his name yet but they say, ‘Boy, how about that Japanese pitcher y’all have?’”

One of the Japanese reporters asked Ryan to compare himself to Darvish at the same age.

“There’s a substantial difference,” he said. “I still had a control problem. I was very durable but I didn’t have the feel for the



In this Jan. 18, 2012, file photo, Texas Rangers CEO and President Nolan Ryan speaks to reporters during a news conference in Arlington, Texas. AP

baseball or my delivery as he does with his.”

“That’s one of the unique things about him is at 25 he’s still a very young pitcher and he has a great delivery and control of his delivery and he has a good feel for his baseball. When I say that, I mean he can throw different pitches, he can locate his pitches and so I think for a 25-year-old that’s quite an accomplishment,” he said.

Still, Ryan said, Darvish will have to learn the hitters, adjust to a different ball, acclimate himself to a five-day rotation

instead of the six days he had in Japan, and deal with life in a different culture.

“What you hope is he doesn’t come into camp and feel like he has to try to do more than he can and more than what he is,” Ryan said. “I think that’s a tendency when contracts and situations come up. I’m sure Prince Fielder will be feeling that to some degree this year going into Detroit’s camp. What your hope is he can relax and just focus on what he needs to do to get ready and not try to go out and prove his

worth here in spring training.”

Hamilton, the Rangers’ standout who has dealt with addiction all his adult life, relapsed in early February, drinking into the night at a Texas bar.

Ryan said he has talked to Hamilton and says the former AL MVP is in great shape and anxious to get started in spring training. He is expected to arrive on Thursday.

“Obviously us who don’t have an addiction don’t truly understand the challenges that Josh has,” Ryan said, “so we’re concerned for him obviously

and as organization we try to do anything we can to help in any way we can. But yes, it is a concern of ours as it is for everybody around Josh and associated with Josh, from his teammates to his family members, to people that just care about him.

“I think that probably is one of the things that Josh realizes after this last time is the support that he does have out here, and I think that’s probably very comforting to him.”

As for a long-term contract for Hamilton, that will have to wait.

“I can’t go into that,” Ryan said. “There’s so many factors that come into play when you’re talking about long-term contracts. It doesn’t matter who it is. At this point in time, I think everybody kind of just decided that we’d just let things kind of settle down before we went anywhere.”

The Rangers are proceeding with a plan to move Hamilton to left with a competition this spring to find another center fielder.

“We feel like one of them will surface and basically be our everyday center fielder,” Ryan said, “but it’s a pretty good option if you’ve got to go back to Josh in center field.”

Ryan said Darvish fits right in as a young pitcher with the Rangers’ other talented youngsters—Matt Harrison (14-9, 3.39 ERA), Derek Holland

(16-5, 3.95), former closer Neftali Feliz and Alexi Ogando (13-8, 3.51).

“If you want to look at our ballclub and analyze our ballclub, the area that I think we have more upside than any other area is our pitching staff and mainly our starting staff,” Ryan said, “because of the youth that we have in there. I don’t think those guys have reached the level that I think they’re capable of going to, and that includes Yu. Obviously he’s in that same age group as the rest of those young starters. I think his better years are ahead of him.”

Ryan hopes the Rangers’ nucleus stays healthy.

“We have what I call established veterans on the ballclub that aren’t at the end of their careers. They’re at the peak of their careers,” Ryan said. “You kind of go around the ballclub and you look at Josh and you look at Adrian (Beltre) and you look at Ian (Kinsler) and you look at Michael (Young) and Nelly (Nelson Cruz) and that’s the nucleus of a ballclub that’s not growing old yet.”

Last season, the team won despite injuries to important players.

“If we can narrow the amount of time that those guys spend on the disabled list,” Ryan said, “then it even increases the opportunities that we have of being an even better ballclub. That’s the way I look at it.”



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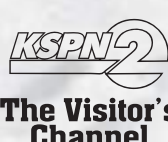
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MLB BRIEFS

Dodgers bankruptcy case on track

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—A bankruptcy judge on Wednesday approved the disclosure statement outlining the Los Angeles Dodgers’ proposed bankruptcy reorganization plan, keeping the team’s plan for an April 30 sale on track. Approval of the disclosure statement in a Chapter 11 case typically allows the process for soliciting votes from creditors to begin. But in the Dodgers case, the only creditor allowed to vote on the plan is LA Partners LLC, the parent company of LA Holdco LLC. Holdco, in turn, is the sole member of the Los Angeles Dodgers Holding Co. According to court documents, LA Partners is a wholly owned subsidiary of The McCourt-Broderick Limited Partnership, in which Dodgers owner Frank McCourt owns a 90 percent interest and is the sole limited partner. The McCourt Co. is the sole general partner in TMBLP and owns the remaining 10 percent. The voting deadline is March 16, and the judge scheduled a hearing to decide whether to confirm the plan for April 13.

Judge rules in NY Mets’ favor in hot dog dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge has ruled in favor of the New York Mets in a ballpark dispute over kosher hot dogs. Kosher Sports Inc. had sued the Queens Ballpark Company, the

team subsidiary that operates Citi Field, in 2010. The food vendor claimed the team violated a 2008 contract by preventing it from selling kosher hot dogs on Friday nights and Saturdays. The company also accused the Mets of failing to provide enough vending stations at the Queens ballpark. U.S. District Judge Jack B. Weinstein in Brooklyn said Tuesday the contract did not give Kosher Sports the right to sell hot dogs and other foods at every Mets game. The judge also said the vendor defaulted on part of its 2010 payment of \$55,000 and may have to pay damages.

White Sox begin Robin Ventura era

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—The new manager of the Chicago White Sox didn’t curse, rant or make any headlines during his first media session of the spring. Robin Ventura was calm and cool—in other words, he was no Ozzie Guillen. The White Sox are opening training camp for the first time since 2004 without Guillen, their former fiery manager now with the Miami Marlins. The change is already noticeable. Ventura, one of the most popular players in club history, is the man who will now make out the lineup card and he’s excited about his first managerial gig at any level. Ventura couldn’t wait to get to camp to begin interacting with his players.

Woods survives, Donald doesn't at Match Play



MARANA, Ariz.

(AP)—Tiger Woods had to play a left-handed shot out of the desert. Retief Goosen holed out from 156 yards and didn't even win the hole. Dustin Johnson twice won a hole after taking a penalty drop.

But the strangest sight of all Wednesday at the Match Play Championship didn't come from the golf course.

It was Luke Donald on his way to the airport.

"Golf is like that sometimes," Donald said after his 5-and-4 loss to Ernie Els, becoming only the third No. 1 seed to lose in the opening round. "It's a fickle game, and sometimes it bites you."

It almost took a bite out of Woods, who had to rally to beat Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano; and U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, the No. 2 seed who was 3 up with three holes to play and was sweating on the 18th until George Coetzee missed a short putt for par.

Donald was so dominant last year in winning the Match Play Championship that he closed out all six of his matches before they reached the 18th hole. He won't be playing the closing hole at Dove Mountain this year, either.

Els, who only got into the 64-man field when Phil Mickelson took his family on a ski vacation, delivered the biggest shocker in the first round by taking the lead for good on the eighth hole and putting the world's No. 1 player in a hole from which he couldn't recover.

Donald lost in the opening round for the first time in eight appearances in this World Golf Championship.

"I don't think it would have mattered who I played today. I just didn't play well," Donald said. "I struggled. I gave away too many holes and made too many mistakes. You can't do that in match play against anyone, let alone Ernie."

Woods nearly found that out, too.

He trailed the Spaniard with four holes to play, and both of them looked beatable. That changed when Woods drove the par-4 15th green to win with a two-putt birdie, won the 16th with a par and then closed out the Spaniard with an 8-foot par putt for a 1-up win.

"We both made our share of mistakes, there's no doubt about that," said Woods. "But somehow, I was able to move on."

That was the only objective in this World Golf Championship, a single-elimination format in which the only proper

use of the word "upset" is the mood of the 32 guys who are headed home.

Among them:

■ Ian Poulter, the Match Play winner two years ago, suffered his worst loss in nine appearances when Bae Sang-moon beat him, 4 and 3.

■ Bill Haas, coming off that monster win at Riviera just three days ago, looked like a winner when he was 1 up on the 17th green and had a 5-foot birdie putt. Ryo Ishikawa holed from 18 feet, Haas missed, and the Japanese star made par on the 18th to win.

■ In the most thrilling match of the opening round, Jim Furyk was on the verge of sending Johnson home early for the fourth straight year when Johnson hit his tee shot into the desert and had to take a penalty drop on the 20th hole. Furyk chipped across the green and three-putted for bogey to lose.

■ Rafael Cabrera-Bello was 3 up with three holes to play against Jason Day when he bogeyed three straight holes, and Day beat him with a 4-foot birdie putt on the 19th hole.

The other top seeds didn't have too many problems, although McIlroy had a nervous moment.

He won four straight holes on the

back nine to seize control against Coetzee and was 3 up with three to play when McIlroy lost the next two holes with bogeys, then popped up a tee shot and made par a challenge. Coetzee, however, blew his approach some 60 feet long on the 18th and three-putted for bogey, giving McIlroy a 2-up win.

Lee Westwood never trailed in his 3-and-1 win over Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium. The test for Westwood comes on Thursday against Robert Karlsson, when he tries to advance to the third round for the first time. Martin Kaymer easily dispatched Greg Chalmers, while Steve Stricker outlasted Kevin Na.

McIlroy and Westwood now have a chance to replace Donald at No. 1 in the world if either were to win this week.

"Obviously, it's another incentive waking up each morning and knowing that if you win your match at the end of that day, at the end of the week you could be world No. 1," McIlroy said.

Donald will head home to Florida to shake off a poor start to his season.

"It's a terrible ride home, believe me," said Els, who has lost five times in the opening round. "I feel for Luke. He's got a lot of pressure on him. Yeah, I know exactly what it feels like."

Fernandez-Castano got some attention this week for saying Woods was "beatable" and not at his best. "He's beatable, too," Woods replied, and the way they played, both were right.

Woods lost the opening two holes and looked as though he might fall 3 down until making a 10-foot par save. Woods won three of the next five holes, one of them with a 50-foot birdie putt, and that's when the match became a case of give-and-take.

He wasn't wild all the time, but it cost him when he was: a left-handed shot out of the desert on No. 2; too much club that sent him over the 11th green and into the desert. But he settled down right about the time the Spaniard began to struggle with the putter, missing putts inside 10 feet on the 15th and 16th holes that enabled Woods to take the lead.

"I think if there was one day to beat Tiger Woods, this was it," Fernandez-Castano said. "I didn't take the opportunity. I missed a few shots. And of course, you can't miss spots if you want to beat one of the greatest in history."

Johnson had no business winning his match.

He already was 3 down when he drove into the desert. He was given relief, but didn't check the path of his swing, and his club hit a cactus on the way back, leading to a muffed shot that stayed in the desert and required a penalty drop. He was hitting his fourth shot from the desert. Furyk was hitting his third from the desert.

Johnson wound up winning the hole with a bogey.

He managed to take the lead going to the 18th, only to bogey. Then, on the par-5 second hole, Johnson had to take another penalty drop from the desert and appeared to be beaten until Furyk chopped up the rest of the hole for bogey.

"It's a funny golf course. Anything can happen," Johnson said. "And I just hung in there."

It never looked more bizarre than when Goosen hit into the desert, took a penalty drop, pitched out and holed a 156-yard shot for his birdie. Brandt Snedeker jarred a 40-foot birdie putt to halve the hole. It was only fitting that their match was the longest of the day, going 21 holes until Snedeker won with a par.

DUI charges against Steelers' Ward dropped

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Prosecutors have dropped DUI charges against Pittsburgh Steelers receiver and Dancing With the Stars winner Hines Ward.

DeKalb County Prosecutor Sonja N. Brown said Wednesday that Ward pleaded guilty to reckless driving and was given a year on probation. She

says he also was fined \$2,000 and must do 80 hours of community service. He also must undergo alcohol evaluation.

The 35-year-old Super Bowl XL MVP was arrested last year after he failed to maintain his lane and hit a curb. He failed several field sobriety

tests and was booked into the DeKalb County jail and later released on bond.

Ward used to be a primary receiving target but last season wasn't used as much. He has two years remaining on his deal and has said he's willing to restructure it to finish his career with Pittsburgh.

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MHS1 bumps SIS1 from top spot in girls volleyball



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School varsity Lady Dolphins team captain Toni Yamada powers over a spike in this file photo taken during their previous MISO girls volleyball matchup against the MHS Junior Dolphins at the MHS Gymnasium.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Marianas High School Varsity Lady Dolphins (MHS1) served the defending champion Lady Geckos of Saipan International School its second loss of the season in Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball matchup at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS1 heated up early in the duel and grinded out a win in the opening set, 25-21. The Lady Dolphins then carried its surge

into the second set and capped a sound 25-12 victory for the nod.

SIS1 lit up MHS1's reserves, 15-2, in the final set, but the former has some tidying up to do before next week's postseason tournament.

Both teams left the contest with 9-2 win-loss slates and are tied for second place behind the red-hot Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles.

GCA was also in the house on Tuesday and brushed off MHS' Junior Lady Dolphins (MHS2) in three quick sets, 25-4, 25, 8 and 15-9, to remain at the front of the pack with a stout 10-1 record.

The adjusted standings leave

SIS' Junior Lady Geckos (SIS2) in fourth place with a 5-6 record; Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus in fifth with a 4-8 card; and MHS2 in sixth place at 2-10.

Notably, the standings were adjusted because Saipan Southern High School never officially fielding a team but were still included in the game schedule.

Some bye wins were granted because Marianas Baptist Academy won two out of six appearances before pulling out of competition; six teams now make up the field.

The regular season wrapped up yesterday with MHS1 host-

4th Annual JP Walk tomorrow

Tan Holdings will be holding its 4th Annual JP Walk this Saturday starting at the pavilion across the JP Center along Beach Road to Susupe Beach Park.

The three-mile walk and fundraiser is being held in memory of Tan Holdings former executive John "JP" Pangelinan.

"The company and myself have missed JP for the last four years. Each year I look forward to seeing his family, friends and the rest of the community come out and remember him by walking in his memory and supporting the fight against cancer," stated Tan Holdings president and longtime friend of Pangelinan, Jerry Tan in an email on Monday.

Tan Holdings employees and their families are encouraged to participate, and the company will cover the \$5 entrance fee for every employee that takes part in the event.

Proceeds will be donated to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Registration starts at 5am and refreshments and entertainment will be provided at the end of the walk.

A frequent shuttle service will also be made available from Susupe back to Garapan all morning.

Pangelinan was a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and was known for his humility, sense of humor, and compassion, which he used to instill fairness both in the workplace and in the media.

Pangelinan also upheld an admired reputation as a true-gentlemen that built connec-

tions with people of all statures. Born on Oct. 26, 1937, Pangelinan passed after enduring a long battle with cancer on Feb. 5, 2008.

Registration forms can be obtained through Becky Tenorio by emailing becky_tenorio@tanholdings.com; transactions can be completed at the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of JP Center, or visit the TSL Foundation in TSL Plaza. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

XGA February Ace tomorrow



The X-clusive Golfers Association is holding its February Ace of the Month event tomorrow at the Mariana Country Club in Marpi.

Showtime is set at 11:30am with a 12:30pm tee off.

Last month, J.J. Cabrera was declared the first ace of the 2012 season. The event was held at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members and is currently accepting new members until Thursday, March 1. In contrast to its name, the XGA wants the

public to know that anyone can join the club, male or female.

Newcomers are required to pay a \$50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform (\$25). Membership renewal for returning members is only \$40.

On the day of events, players are also required to pay a green fee along with an additional \$30 tournament fee that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

Contact XGA's secretary Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

ing its rematch with GCA on the north court, while SIS2 called over big-sister SIS1 to the south end.

GCA can claim first place outright with a win, while an upset by SIS2 over SIS1 would

drop the 2011 champs into the third seed. However, if GCA loses and SIS1 wins then the final standings will be determined by a three-way tiebreaker consequence, in which organizers will analyze the trios' head-to-

head scores, set by set.

MISO's double-elimination postseason tournament is scheduled for March 2 and March 3 at the MHS Gym. Official game times and matchups will be announced next week.

Juan Babauta takes SGA February Ace honors

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Juan L. Babauta came away as the Saipan Golfers Association's February Ace of the Month after the conclusion of the group's monthly event held at the Marianas Country Club last Feb. 5.

After returning from a three-month break from the links, Babauta topped 16 other golfers. He managed one birdie in his round and finished with a field low 72 net score.

Babauta joins last month's January Ace Bob Magofna in the ranks as both are now eligible to compete in SGA's finale Ace of Aces tournament at the

end of the season. Magofna also belted the furthest tee shot on designated long drive hole No. 2 and also bagged a birdie in the February event.

Ray San Nicolas finished second place by winning a tiebreaker over third placer Tony DeLeon Guerrero; both finished with a 73 net tally.

Other notables included a pair of birdies for hole No. 8's closest to the pin winner Ray Dela Cruz; two birdies for Rick Kautz; a birdie for hole No. 12's winner Ned Norita; a birdie for hole No. 16's closest to the pin winner Tom Castro; hole No. 6's closest to the pin winner Eun Jung

Teack; and hole No. 11's long drive winner Larry Deleon Guerrero.

Other results include Das Krishnan (74), Magofna (76), Frances Sablan (76), Frankie Pangelinan (77), Ray Dela Cruz (78), Kautz (79), Norita (79), Manny Sablan (80), Fajardo (81), Quitugua (81), Teack (81), DL Guerrero (83), Castro (85), and Ed Sablan (86).

The SGA March Ace event is tentatively scheduled for March 11 at Kingfisher Golf Links. Organizers are aiming for the second Sunday of every month for its ace tournaments. More details will be released when received.



Babauta

SSC Meek and Mighty swim Saturday



The Saipan Swim Club will be holding the 7th Annual Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim this Saturday in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Athletes preparing for XTERRA and Tagaman triathlon races are invited to join the weekend event to warm up for next month's competitions.

The Meek race will feature a one-kilometer course, while the Mighty event will have the longest distance at 5K. There is also a Tweeny race, which will cover a distance of 3K.

Entrance fee is only \$10 and all participants will receive swim caps, raffle tickets, and PIC water park pass. Registration starts at 7am, while the race begins at 8am.

Andrew Kimball topped last year's Mighty race, clocking in at 1:17:11 and defeating Victoria Chentsova (1:19:55), sister Grace (1:22:56), Carol



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club swimmers head to the finish line during last year's Meek and Mighty race in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Lynn Pierce (1:30:31), and Gary Guzman. In the 3K event, Kento Akimaru (46:13) downed

Mieko Carey (46:43), while Kindel ruled the shortest race with a time of 18:50. (SSC)

Activity Schedule for February 24, 2012		
 NMBA 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Morning practices) 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Evening practices)	 There are no scheduled events.	 2012 Men's B Futsal League There are no scheduled events.

Lakers hit
midway mark
with win
over Dallas

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Saipan Tribune Sports

MHS1 bumps SIS1
from top spot in
girls volleyball

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32 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Staal anchors relay win in state championship



WWW.DAILYTIDINGS.COM

CNMI swimmer Kai Staal competes for Ashland High School in the boys 200-meter medley relay at Southern Oregon University last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Kai Staal led Ashland High School to a first place finish in the 400yard freestyle relay race in last weekend's 2012 OSAA (Oregon School Activities Association) Swimming State Championships Class 5A in Oregon.



Staal was the finisher for the Grizzlies, touching the wall at the Mt. Hood Community College pool at the 3:17.09 mark

to pull off an upset over rival and the favored Summit High School. The CNMI swimmer, who won multiple gold medals

for the Commonwealth during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, timed in at 46.03 seconds in the last 100y of the

relay race and was the fastest on the team. Staal joined forces with anchor Gus Simms (50.56 seconds), Massie Parker (49.90 seconds), and Forrest Kollar (50.60 seconds).

Staal's time in the 100y split broke the Ashland record (46.54 seconds) Brad Scoles made in 2000. He also recorded the second fastest time in the field of 24 swimmers behind the 45.63 of 100y freestyle champion and Summit's Tommy Brewer. Staal's relay team also shat-

See STAAL on Page 30

Hite Beer tosses down first victory; Blue Haus nears win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hite Beer/Blue Haus barged into the win column of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League after routing Andhok's Grille, 77-60, last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Hite Beer-Andhok's Grille tiff was the lone match completed last Wednesday night. The second game between Blue Haus and Sunrisers was rained-out just before the fourth quarter started with the former enjoying a 69-53 advantage.

With the victory, Hite Beer moved up to the middle of the pack in the 10-team field with its 1-1 record. The game against Andhok's was Hite Beer's third of the season, but its debut match over Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe was rained-out at halftime with the latter on top, 28-25. Hite Beer



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Leo Itaas drives against the Sunrisers' Jawn Joyner during the second quarter of their rained-out game in the DLX/Miller Lite cag-ing last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

then dropped its second game against SCS Heavy Equipment Rental, 57-60.

Andhok's Grille, which came off a big 92-69 win over the defending champion Blue Haus, played flat against Hite Beer, failing to get production from Raymark Castro, Gino Libuw, John Artates, and Tim Wesley.

Libuw, who had 17 against Blue Haus, was held to two field goals and six points, while Castro made only four markers, way below his 20-point output in their previous game. Artates tallied only two after making 13 against Blue Haus, while Wesley did not play. Three Andhok's Grille players scored in double figures with Mike Umali nailing 12 before fouling out in the closing minute of the match and White Capalad and Mike Olaitiman adding 11 and 10, respectively, while the rest struggled

Alex Lauron top-scored for Hite Beer with 19, including a triple at the buzzer past the mid-court area, while Ivan Devero contributed 16.

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Marianas Cup receives donation; expects over 100 players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

All is set for the 20th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival with over 100 players expected in the weekend competition and various groups throwing in their support for the annual event.



The Tan Siu Lin Foundation was the latest group to extend a hand for the Marianas Cup, giving donation to the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association. TSL

Foundation manager Ed Arriola turned over the \$2,000 cash donation to NMIVA president Laurie Peterka during a brief ceremony at the TSL Plaza last Wednesday. Joining Arriola and Peterka in the turn-over ceremony were Tan Holdings corporate consultant Dave Sablan and NMIVA official Ed Cho.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation gave \$1,500 in kind and \$2,000 cash donations for the staging of the Marianas Cup to enhance another sport (beach volleyball). See MARIANAS on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, left, turns over the \$2,000 cash donation to Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Laurie Peterka, second left, for the staging of the 2012 Marianas Cup. Joining the brief ceremony at the TSL Plaza last Wednesday Tan Holdings corporate consultant Dave Sablan, third left, and NMIVA official Ed Cho, right.

Pacquiao touts Bradley fight, teases retirement

GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER



BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Manny Pacquiao and

Timothy Bradley Jr. both realize almost every boxing fan wishes Floyd Mayweather Jr. had been standing next to Pacquiao at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Tuesday.

But when Pacquiao and Mayweather failed to make a deal

for the fight everybody wants to see, Pacquiao moved down the list of contenders to make a fight he hopes his fans will enjoy.

Pacquiao and Bradley are getting an early start on the promotional circuit for their welterweight bout June 9 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. Even while the Filipino congressman and his unbeaten opponent posed for photos and praised each other in the peach-

See PACQUIAO on Page 30



AP

Manny Pacquiao, left, of the Philippines, and Timothy Bradley Jr. pose at a news conference Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif., to promote their June 9 welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas.